



# PHARMACEUTICAL REFORM

*A new level of medication care and safety*

## Consumer FAQs

### What will I need to bring to hospital?

- Your current Medicare card.
- Your current concession card such as your Pension card, Health Care card, or your Department of Veterans' Affairs card.
- Your current PBS Safety Net card (if you have one).

Please present these cards upon arrival. This assists us to charge you the correct co-payment for your medicines.

We encourage you to bring your current medicines including any over-the-counter and herbal medicines. This will help the pharmacist to review the medicines that you were taking before you came to hospital.

During your stay in hospital you will be supplied with the medicines you need – do not use your own medicines.

Please refer to your admission information for further details on items to bring (or not bring) to hospital.

### What is the PBS and am I eligible?

The [PBS](#) is an Australian Government program that provides subsidies for the cost of many common medicines. This means that the Australian Government pays the difference between what the patient pays (the co-payment) and the actual cost of the medicine, which can be substantially more. To learn more about the PBS please see the information on the [Department of Health and Ageing](#) web page.

You will be eligible for the PBS as long as you hold a current Medicare card.

Access to the PBS is also available to citizens of those countries with which Australia has a Reciprocal Health Care Agreement.

### How much will I pay for the medicines I receive on discharge from hospital?

The cost will be similar to what you would pay at your local pharmacy. The patient co-payment, set by the Australian Government, is currently:

- No more than \$34.20\* per item for general patients.
- \$5.60\* per item for concession card or DVA card holders.

\* Occasionally, a medication has an [additional premium cost](#).

## Consumer FAQs (continued)

### **How do I pay for the medicines I receive on discharge from hospital?**

When you receive medicines on discharge from hospital you will be issued with an invoice that you will have 30 days to pay. This invoice includes information on the payment options.

Payments for your medicines can be made at the hospital cashier as you leave the hospital, or paid later at Service Tasmania, Australia Post, by mail, via BPAY or by phone using the invoice provided to you with your medicines.

### **What else do I need to know?**

You will not be able to fill any prescriptions your local doctor has given you at the hospital pharmacy. For ongoing supply of most medicines, you need to see your local doctor.

### **Where can I go for more information?**

[www.medicareaustralia.gov.au](http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au)

[www.pbs.gov.au](http://www.pbs.gov.au)

### **Contact us:**

Phone (03) 6233 2990

Email [pharmaceuticalreform@dhhs.tas.gov.au](mailto:pharmaceuticalreform@dhhs.tas.gov.au)

Webpage [www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/pharmreform](http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/pharmreform)