

# High Use Health Card (HUHC)

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### What is a High Use Health Card (HUHC)?

The HUHC is also known as the High User Card, Health Card, Exemption Card or Discount Card. It gives the cardholder a higher subsidy on visits to the doctor and prescription charges. There is no income testing. The purpose of the card is to help people who do not have a CSC but who face high GP and prescription costs because they have ongoing health problems that mean they visit the doctor often.

### What do I get from a HUHC?

The HUHC Card gives the same amount of subsidy as the CSC on GP visits and prescription charges.

- ◆ Adults with a HUHC get a subsidy of \$15 for a visit to a doctor.
- ◆ Children aged 6–18 get a subsidy of \$20 for a visit to a doctor.
- ◆ For prescriptions the government prescription charge is reduced from \$15 to \$3 per item (but when the medicines themselves are only partly subsidised there will still be additional charges).

If you already have a CSC, there is no advantage in having a HUHC because the subsidy is the same.

The card does not give subsidies for visiting alternative health providers, unless they are also registered GPs.

### Who is entitled to a HUHC?

Any person who has an ongoing health condition (it could be more than one condition) that means they need to visit a doctor frequently. Examples of ongoing conditions are asthma, chronic chest infection, diabetes, high blood pressure, angina, depression.

You can apply for a card after you have visited the GP 12 or more times in the previous 12 months. Phone consultations for repeat prescriptions do not count towards the 12 visits; it has to be a face-to-face visit. The card can only be used by the cardholder and does not give benefits to the rest of the family.

### Where and how can I get a HUHC?

Your doctor's clinic should be keeping a record of your visits. The doctor makes the application for you and the card will be sent to you by an agency called HealthPac.

If you go to a different doctor from your usual doctor, ask them to let your usual doctor know so that your records can be updated.

It might take a week or so for your card to be sent out. If you go to the doctor before you get your card, pay the full amount, but keep all your receipts for the visit to the doctor and for prescriptions. When you get your card, you can take it with your receipts to a WINZ office to be reimbursed for the value of the subsidy.

The cards are valid for one year. Your doctor will need to reapply after the first year.

### **Does it cost me anything to get a HUHC?**

No, the doctor should not charge for this service.

### **What should I do with the card?**

Take it with you when you visit the doctor and go to get a prescription so you can get the extra subsidy on the spot.