

Pharmaceutical Subsidy Card (PSC)

October 2002

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What is a Pharmaceutical Subsidy Card (PSC)?

The PSC is also known as a Safety Net Card, Prescription Subsidy Card, Exemption Card or Discount Card. It allows the cardholder and named family members to pay a lower amount on government prescription charges. There is no income testing. The purpose of the card is to help people who face high prescription costs but who do not have a CSC or a HUHC.

What do I get from a PSC?

In the case of a family with a CSC and a PSC, there will be no further \$3 prescription charges for the rest of the year starting from the date when the PSC is issued and until the following 31 January. For all other families (with or without a HUHC) the prescription charge is reduced by \$13 per item (that is: instead of paying \$15 per item the charge is now \$2).

The card does not cover herbal remedies, supplements that are not classified as medicines, or medicines that you can buy over the counter (that is, without needing a prescription).

Who is entitled to a PSC?

Any member of a family unit, usually the primary caregiver, will hold the PSC.

A 'family unit' can mean:

- (a) a married (or de facto) couple, with one or more dependent children
- (b) a married (or de facto) couple, with no dependent children
- (c) one person with or without children.

Where and how can I get a PSC?

As a service, your pharmacist will automatically keep a prescription count for you. If your partner or children have different names, you should make sure the chemist knows when a family member picks up a prescription. Your chemist will issue a PSC once a family unit has paid for 20 subsidised prescription items since 1 February of any year.

If you go to a different pharmacy from your usual chemist keep your receipts and show them to your usual chemist so they can add them to your PSC record.

If you don't have a usual chemist keep all your receipts for prescriptions for your family. When you get to 20 items, take them into a chemist and ask them for a card.

Does it cost me anything to get a PSC?

Pharmacies do not charge for this service.

What should I do with the card?

Keep it in a safe place. If you always go to the same pharmacy, they should be keeping a record for you, so you might not need to take it with you when you get a prescription. If you visit a different pharmacy, take the card and present it with your prescription.

Government prescription charges are made up of several different parts and can be very complicated. If you have any questions about the charges you pay, please talk to your chemist.