How to get help with medicine costs

* Some prescription medicines can cost a lot of money. To make these medicines more affordable, the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) can lower the cost.
* The PBS offers reduced cost for PBS prescription medicines to Australian residents, some visitors, and concession card holders.
* You’ll need to enrol in Medicare to access it. When you enrol, we’ll give you a Medicare number.
* You’ll need your Medicare number to access PBS medicines. Your number may already be on your prescription. If it’s not, you may be asked for it when you submit your prescription.
* If you spend a lot on PBS medicines, the PBS Safety Net can reduce your costs. When you spend a certain amount and reach a threshold in a calendar year, you can get PBS medicines cheaper or for free for the rest of the year.
* It’s best to discuss the PBS Safety Net with your pharmacist so they can keep track of your spending. If you go to different pharmacies, you’ll need to keep track of your spending.
* You can reach the PBS Safety Net using prescriptions filled at:
* community pharmacies
* private hospitals approved to supply PBS medicine, or
* out-patient pharmacies at public hospitals.
* You’ll need to use a hospital Prescription Record form for this.
* You may get PBS medicines at a further discount if you have:
* a Health Care Card
* a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card
* an Ex-Carer Allowance (Child) Health Care Card
* a Foster Child Health Care Card
* a Low Income Health Care Card
* a Pensioner Concession Card.
* To save money you’ll need to show your card when you collect your PBS medicines. You won’t get a discount with over the counter medicines.
* You can get cheaper PBS medicines with a Department of Veterans’ Affairs (DVA) health card.
* For more information about help with cost of medicines go to **servicesaustralia.gov.au/medicare**