

HMO Orientation

Pharmaceuticals Benefits Scheme (PBS)

- *The Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) allows Australian Residents to receive Government subsidised medications.*
- *Any Australian resident with Medicare is entitled to this.*
- *When doing a prescription on EMR you can choose to label each medication as PBS or non-PBS. This may have a significant impact on your patient and how much they pay.*

PBS Prescribing

The PBS schedule includes most medications but sometimes only for a particular indication and for a particular duration.

Medications on the PBS schedule fall into three broad categories.

Unrestricted benefits

Have no restrictions on their therapeutic uses.

Restricted benefits

Can only be prescribed for specific therapeutic uses.

You will be given a list options to choose from, pick the indication appropriate for your patient.

Authority required benefits

There are two categories:

- Authority required (Streamlined)
 - *Require an authority code that will be pre-populated for you.*
- Authority required
 - *Require prior approval from Services Australia or the DVA*
 - *You will need to phone Services Australia on 1800 888 333 with the following information;*
 - *Patient's medicare number.*
 - *Script number.*
 - *Your prescriber number.*
 - *Medication name, frequency, duration.*
 - *Appropriate indication.*
 - *They will give you a an approval code to record on the script.*

Non-PBS Prescribing

If an item is restricted, and the use for the patient is different from the use specified in the restriction, it cannot be prescribed as a pharmaceutical benefit. You should label this medication as non-PBS.

Some medications are not government subsidised so will always be non-PBS.

Patients will pay the full amount for non-PBS medications.