



Prescription medications for injured workers

Notice



Injured workers are entitled to PBS prescriptions

Injured workers

As your claim entitlements for medical expenses are capped, accessing subsidised PBS* medications will see your capped entitlement go further.

If you require medication and you have a Medicare card, check with your doctor whether it can be prescribed under the PBS.

Remember to present your Medicare card to the pharmacist when picking up your PBS prescription.

Employers and insurers

Employers and insurers pay the reasonable costs of medical and health services provided to injured workers.

Where an injured worker is entitled to access the PBS, employers and insurers should reimburse all patient contribution charges set out in the PBS, including brand and therapeutic premiums.

Employers and insurers may pay for non-PBS (privately prescribed) medications if, in the medical practitioner's opinion, the medications are clinically appropriate for the injured worker's condition and there is no readily available alternative on the PBS.

Medical practitioners

The fact a patient is a workers' compensation claimant does not affect how a medical practitioner should prescribe medication.

All medications should be prescribed under the PBS where clinically appropriate and available.

Where a medical practitioner prescribes a dosage over the PBS limit for prescribed medications an authority from Medicare Australia is required.

Pharmacists

Pharmacists will charge the applicable PBS rate for medications upon presentation of an injured worker's Medicare card.

Invoices for medications are usually submitted to the relevant insurer for payment. However in some circumstances, the injured worker may pay the pharmacy invoice and then be reimbursed by the insurer. Pharmacies are encouraged to confirm payment arrangements with the insurer.

What you need to know

* PBS = Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme