



PBS CONCESSIONS AND SPECIAL SCHEDULES

Fact Sheet 007



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Who is eligible for PBS concessions?

Individuals who hold the following cards are eligible for PBS concessions:

- A pensioner concession card, Commonwealth seniors health card or a Healthcare card. These are issued by Centrelink.
- A DVA White, Gold or Orange card issued by the Department of Veterans Affairs.



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Concession card entitlements

Concession cardholders are entitled to all PBS medicines under the concessional rate. DVA concession cardholders are entitled to all PBS medicines at a concessional rate and also medicines under the Repatriation Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (RPBS) depending on DVA entitlement. All medicines supplied under the RPBS are dispensed at the concessional rate (or free if the patient has reached their Safety Net threshold) [1].

If you have a DVA white card, it entitles you to-

- RPBS and PBS medicines at the concessional rate for a specific medical condition (which is at your doctor's discretion) war or service related [1].
- Receive all other PBS medicines at the general rate.

If you have an orange card

- Receive all RPBS medication that are pharmaceutical medications, exclude other healthcare expenses [1].

If you have a DVA gold it entitles you to-

- All RPBS and PBS medicines at the concessional rate, including clinically necessary treatment whether related to war service or not [1].

DVA pension cardholders are entitled to concessional rate for PBS however, are not eligible for RPBS medicines [1].

Dental and optometrical schedules

Dentists are not able to prescribe general PBS items, but have a separate Dental Schedule from which they can prescribe dental care medicines for their patients [2]. Optometrists are not able to prescribe general PBS items, but have a separate Optometrical Schedule from which they can prescribe eye care medicines for their patients [2].



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References

1. Australian Department of Veterans' Affairs. Pharmaceutical Reimbursement Scheme 2015. (Available from www.dva.gov.au) [Accessed 21 July 2015]
2. Australian Department of Health and Ageing. About the PBS The Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (Available from www.pbs.gov.au/info/about-the-pbs-What_is_the_PBS) [Accessed 5 August 2015]



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