

HIV medication co-payment waiver

Frequently asked questions for pharmacies

Accessing HIV treatment in Queensland

Queensland Health has introduced an HIV medication co-payment waiver for Queensland residents with HIV, regardless of their Medicare status.

FAQs

When will the program commence?

The HIV co-payment waiver program is now in place. The Pharmacy Guild of Australia's online [portal](#) will be operational by 1 November 2023, and will enable retrospective payments of any claims made since 3 October 2023.

Who does this HIV co-payment waiver apply to?

The initiative applies to people who are:

- Queensland residents,
- treated by authorised prescribers, and
- prescribed HIV medications under Section 100 of the National Health Act 1953.

For Medicare-eligible people: This includes public non-admitted patients, outpatients or day patients, inpatients on discharge from public hospitals and privately referred, non-admitted patients treated by Queensland public hospitals or by authorised community prescribers. The co-payment waiver applies regardless of whether HIV medication prescriptions are filled through Queensland public hospitals or community pharmacies.

For Medicare-ineligible people: This includes outpatients at public health facilities who have their prescription filled at a Queensland public hospital pharmacy.

Does the HIV co-payment waiver apply to people accessing Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)?

No. The co-payment waiver is only for HIV medication for treatment of people with HIV. It does not extend to HIV medication for HIV-negative people for the purpose of PrEP.

How can Queensland community pharmacies participate in the HIV co-payment waiver program?

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia will be administering reimbursements on behalf of the Queensland Government for s100 HIV antiretroviral therapy dispensed at Queensland community pharmacies. Community pharmacies must register with the Pharmacy Guild

of Australia's online [portal](#) to submit HIV co-payment claims and receive reimbursement from Queensland Health. You do not need to be a member of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia to register.

In addition to the cost of the co-payment for eligible patients, pharmacies are paid a service fee for the work associated with submitting claims on behalf of patients. The fees are \$2.03 (ex GST) for each co-payment claimed and a one-off monthly administration fee of \$12.20 (ex GST) for the first claim made each month.

Information on how to submit claims for the s100 Co-payment Program is available on The Pharmacy Guild of Australia [website](#).

How are community pharmacists reimbursed for the HIV co-payment waiver?

Community pharmacies submit eligible patient co-payment claims for reimbursement to the Pharmacy Guild of Australia via their online [portal](#). The Pharmacy Guild processes claims within ten business days and reimburses pharmacists for each eligible patient co-payment and the services fees outlined above. Pharmacies are encouraged to submit claims for reimbursement on a monthly basis

This arrangement ensures pharmacists can comply with the National Health Act 1953, which requires community pharmacists to charge the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) co-payment for s100 medications. This also ensures that eligible patients can access HIV medications from community pharmacies, without having to pay the co-payment.

Can pharmacies directly claim from Queensland Health?

No. Queensland Health will not be reimbursing any claims directly. All claims must go through the Pharmacy Guild. All participating community pharmacies need to create a user account to access the online [portal](#).

Are Queensland public hospitals reimbursed for the HIV co-payment waiver?

No, Queensland public hospital pharmacies are not reimbursed for HIV co-payments waivers. Queensland public hospital pharmacies are covered by a [Health Service Directive](#) and will implement the co-payment waiver accordingly.

Which doctors are authorised to prescribe s100 HIV medications?

All infectious disease and emergency department physicians can prescribe s100 HIV medications. A current list of Queensland s100 community prescribers can be found [online](#).

What patient details need to be recorded for claiming purposes?

Participating community pharmacies must provide the following details for each claim to be processed:

- Patient name
- Medicare number

- Date dispensed
- Patient's home postcode
- Patient's co-payment category
- Unique dispensing number
- PBS item code
- Item description
- That the dispensing pharmacist has sighted a valid and current privacy collection notice in the form of an agreed patient consent form.

What is the consent process for patients to access the HIV co-payment waiver at community pharmacies?

The dispensing pharmacist must sight a valid and current privacy collection notice in the form of the agreed [patient consent form](#). A legible photo of the patient consent form (for example on the patient's phone) is also acceptable. The pharmacy is not required to retain a copy of the consent form.

Pharmacists can provide the patient with a [consent form](#) to complete if they don't have one.

What information does the pharmacy need to provide to register for the Pharmacy Guild portal?

Participating community pharmacies must provide the following details:

- Account name
- ABN
- Registered date
- Status
- Entity name
- Physical address
- Business owner and contact information
- Bank details for payment
- Section 90 number
- GST registration status and GST registered date (if relevant).