# PBS Changes Explainer

This table outlines the PBS co-payment and Safety Net threshold changes. It can be used by pharmacists as an aid to provide general advice to patients.

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|  | **From 1 July 2022**  *PBS Safety Net thresholds were lowered for concessional patients, to equivalent of 12 fully priced scripts.* | **From 1 January 2023**  *The cost of general prescriptions  under the PBS falls for first time in  75-year history.* | **From 1 January 2024**  *Co-payment and Safety Net threshold amounts increase in line with Consumer Price Index.* | **From 1 January 2025**  *General and Concessional Co-payment amounts are unchanged due to the indexation freeze.   General Safety Net threshold amount increased in line with Consumer Price Index.* |
| Maximum cost per prescription | Maximum cost per prescription | Maximum cost per prescription | Maximum cost per prescription |
| **General patients** | $42.50  *PBS Safety Net threshold lowered  for general patients to* ***$1,457.10*** *–  $85 reduction or equivalent to approximately two fully priced scripts.* | $30.00  *PBS Safety Net threshold increased  to* ***$1,563.50*** *in line with Consumer  Price Index.* | $31.60  *PBS Safety Net threshold increased*  *to* ***$1,647.90*** *in line with Consumer*  *Price Index.* | $31.60  *PBS Safety Net threshold increases*  *to* ***$1,694.00*** *in line with Consumer*  *Price Index.* |
| **Concessional patients** | $6.80  *PBS Safety Net threshold lowered for concessional patients to* ***$244.80*** *– $81.60 reduction or equivalent to  12 fully priced scripts.* | $7.30  *PBS Safety Net threshold increased  to* ***$262.80*** *in line with indexation of concessional co-payment.* | $7.70  *PBS Safety Net threshold increased  to* ***$277.20*** *in line with indexation of concessional co-payment.* | $7.70  *PBS Safety Net threshold remains at* ***$277.20*** *in line with freeze on indexation of concessional co-payment* |
| **Closing the Gap program (general patients)** | $6.80  (general patients) | $7.30  *General Closing the Gap program patients will pay the concessional rate of $7.30 per script. Their scripts will continue to count toward the general PBS Safety Net at the pre‑1 January 2023 amount of $42.50, rather than at the reduced amount of $30.00.* | $7.70  *General Closing the Gap program patients pay the concessional rate of $7.70 per script. Their scripts will continue to count toward the general PBS Safety Net at the amount of $42.50.* | $7.70  *General Closing the Gap program patients pay the concessional rate of $7.70 per script. Their scripts will continue to count toward the general PBS Safety Net at the amount of $42.50.* |
| **Closing the Gap program (concessional patients)** | $0  (concessional patients) | $0  (concessional patients) | $0  (concessional patients) | $0  (concessional patients) |
| **Maximum Allowable Discount**  **($1 Discount)** | $1.00  *(General and Concessional patients)*  *Optional for each item dispensed, at the discretion of the dispensing pharmacist.* | $1.00  *(General and Concessional patients)*  *Optional for each item dispensed, at the discretion of the dispensing pharmacist.* | $1.00  *(General and Concessional patients)*  *Optional for each item dispensed, at the discretion of the dispensing pharmacist.* | *General:* 10 cents(a)  *Concessional:* 80 cents(b)  *Maximum allowable $1 discount decreases by amount of indexation (in dollars) that would have applied to the relevant patient co-payment if there were no freeze on indexation to the general and/or concessional co-payment.* |

1. General patient co-payment will not be indexed and remain at $31.60 from 1 January 2025 for the calendar year of 2025 in accordance with s99G(1A) of the *National Health Act 1953* (the Act). This amount would have increased by $0.90 to $32.50 from 1 January 2025 with the indexation that would have normally applied to the general patient co-payment. In accordance with sections 99GC and 99GD of the Act, the pre-existing allowable $1.00 discount will decrease by the amount of indexation ($0.90) that would have applied to the general co-payment of $31.60. General patients will be eligible for a discount of up to $0.10 off the general patient co-payment of $31.60 in 2025.
2. Concessional patient co-payment will not be indexed and remain at $7.70 from 1 January 2025 for five calendar years from 2025 to 2029 in accordance with s99G(1B) of the *National Health Act 1953* (the Act). This amount would have increased by $0.20 to $7.90 from 1 January 2025 with the indexation that would have normally applied to the concessional patient co-payment. In accordance with sections 99GC and 99GD of the Act, the pre-existing allowable $1.00 discount will decrease by the amount of indexation ($0.20) that would have applied to the concessional co-payment of $7.70. Concessional patients will be eligible for a discount of up to $0.80 off the concessional patient co-payment of $7.70 in 2025.