



**Australian Government**

**Comcare**

# COMCARE PHARMACY PRICING POLICY

## MEDICATIONS COMCARE CAN PAY FOR

Comcare can pay for the appropriate cost of medications which are:

- > reasonably required due to a compensable condition
- > requested by a registered medical practitioner or registered dentist
- > provided by a registered pharmacist
- > provided in accordance with the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).

## MEDICATIONS COMCARE WILL NOT PAY FOR

Comcare will not pay for medications:

- > that a medical practitioner did not prescribe (in the case of prescription medicines)
- > that a medical practitioner did not recommend (in the case of non-prescription items)
- > for a person other than the injured employee
- > for which there is no clinical justification
- > that are not related to the accepted workplace injury or illness
- > are prescribed as part of a clinical trial
- > that were required prior to the accepted workplace injury or illness, unless the dose levels increase as a direct result of the work-related injury or illness.

## PBS MEDICATIONS

Injured employees are able to receive medications under the PBS. Where an injured employee is entitled to access the PBS, Comcare will fund all patient contributions set out in the PBS, including brand or therapeutic premiums i.e. the maximum price to the consumer.

Comcare will only pay for non-PBS (privately prescribed) medications if the medications are clinically appropriate for the compensable condition and there is no readily available alternative on the PBS.

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

For more information about injured employees' entitlements to PBS prescribed medications, please visit the Medicare Australia website at [https://www.humanservices.gov.au/organisations/health-professionals/services/medicare/pbs-pharmacists?utm\\_id=9](https://www.humanservices.gov.au/organisations/health-professionals/services/medicare/pbs-pharmacists?utm_id=9)



## NON-PBS (PRIVATELY PRESCRIBED) MEDICATIONS

Medications should be prescribed under the PBS when clinically appropriate and available. Comcare can pay for non-PBS (privately prescribed) medications if the medications are clinically appropriate for the work-related injury or illness and there are no readily available alternatives on the PBS.

For non-PBS privately prescribed items, Comcare can pay a maximum mark-up of the wholesale price of up to 25 per cent plus the standard dispensing fee.

## COMPLEMENTARY MEDICATIONS

Complementary medications include vitamins, minerals, herbal remedies and nutritional supplements. Comcare can pay the reasonable costs of complementary medications which are:

- > required as a result of a work-related injury or illness
- > requested and supported by a written clinical rationale from a registered medical practitioner or dentist.

## OVER THE COUNTER ITEMS

Over the counter (OTC) items include medications and non-drug pharmacy items and can be sold by a pharmacist without a prescription. This includes analgesics and laxatives, dressings, bandages and supports. Comcare can pay the appropriate cost of OTC medications required as a result of a work-related injury or illness that are:

- > required as a result of a work-related injury or illness
- > requested and supported by a written clinical rationale from a registered medical practitioner or dentist.

NDPSC classification <sup>1</sup>	Mark up <sup>2</sup>	Dispensing fee <sup>3</sup>
No classification or Schedule 2	Up to 50% above the wholesale price	None
Schedule 3 (pharmacist only)	Up to 75% above the wholesale price	None

If a doctor prescribes an OTC item listed on the PBS, the pharmacist is entitled to dispense the item through the PBS and invoice Comcare for the patient contribution.

<sup>1</sup> National Drugs and Poisons Scheduling Committee (NDPSC) administered by the Therapeutic Goods Administration.

<sup>2</sup> Mark-ups are exclusive of GST, which may be added to the marked up price where applicable.

<sup>3</sup> Dispensing fees are not paid for OTC items supplied by a pharmacist that are not on the PBS, as this is not considered to be a reasonable cost.