

Prescription charges

Many medicines in New Zealand are subsidised by the Government. You make a small contribution to the cost of the medicines you receive when you pay a prescription charge.

From 1 January 2013, the amount you contribute towards the cost of your medication increases from \$3 to \$5 for each new prescription item.

Prescriptions for children under six are **still free**.

If your medicine is not fully subsidised, there may be an additional cost.

This is the first increase to the prescription charge in 20 years.

By using a Pharmaceutical Subsidy Card, no person or family need pay more than an extra \$40 per year for their new prescription items as a result of this change. More details about this card are on the back.

For further information talk to your GP or pharmacist, or go to the Ministry of Health website www.health.govt.nz/medications

If you are currently receiving a Disability Allowance that includes prescription costs, it is very important you contact Work and Income (0800 559 009) or Senior Services (0800 552 002) straight away when your costs change.

Pharmaceutical Subsidy Card

Once you and your family have collected 20 new subsidised prescription items in a year, you can get a Pharmaceutical Subsidy Card. This means you won't have to pay any more prescription charges until 1 February the following year.

Your pharmacist gives you the subsidy card once their electronic records of you and your family's new prescriptions reach 20 items.

It is easier if you use the same pharmacy regularly for your prescription items. Make sure your pharmacist knows the names and ages of all the people who may be eligible to be recorded as part of your family for the subsidy card.

If you sometimes go to a different pharmacy, keep your receipts and show them to your usual pharmacy to add to your record. If you don't have a regular pharmacy, keep all your prescription receipts. When you get to 20 items, take the receipts into any pharmacy and ask them for a card. If you have a card and visit a different pharmacy, show the card with your prescription.

You can find more information about the Pharmaceutical Subsidy Card at the Ministry of Health website www.health.govt.nz or ask your pharmacist.