



Medication in Hospital

Supporting your health and wellbeing

Preparing for a hospital stay can be a stressful time. At EPIC Pharmacy we ensure you receive the correct medication to assist your recovery and ongoing wellbeing.

Our pharmacy staff are committed to supporting your patient care from pre-admission to post-discharge. To help in this process, EPIC has outlined a thorough overview of all your medication needs throughout the hospital phase.

What medications do I take before I come to hospital?

If you are undergoing surgery, you may need to cease some medications prior to your hospital stay. Your doctor will advise you if this is required. To assist them in making this decision, it is important you notify the doctor of all medications you are taking at your scheduled appointment. You should outline:

- Prescription medicines, including prescription creams, inhalers, patches and drops
- Over the counter medicines, for example cold and flu tablets, cough medicines and pain relief
- Aspirin
- Vitamins
- Herbal or alternative medicines

Please do not cease any medication without consulting your doctor first.

What medications do I bring to hospital?

To ensure you receive optimal patient care, EPIC needs your help. When preparing for your hospital stay, please pack all of the following items that are relevant to you.

Health and Medication Records

In order to bill you correctly for your medication, please ensure you bring your:

- Medicare card
- Concession, Pension or DVA card (if applicable)
- Safety Net entitlement card (if applicable)
- Prescription Record Form, your local pharmacy can supply you with a printout of this (if applicable)

On admission, you may wish to advise our pharmacy if you are nearing the limit to receive a Safety Net subsidy. If this occurs while you are in hospital, EPIC Pharmacy will issue your entitlement card and ensure all further medications are charged at the subsidised rate. To assist this process, it is important you bring the Prescription Record Form with you. This will outline what medications you are on and your current total.

Current Medicines

To reduce the cost of ordering new medicines, ensure you pack all the medication that you are currently taking. To simplify the identification process, please leave all medications in their original packaging.

Current Prescriptions

Depending on the length of your admission, you may require a repeat prescription to be filled during your stay. To simplify this process it is important you pack all your current repeat prescriptions.

What happens to my medication while I'm in hospital?

Any medications you currently take will be administered from the packets you bring to hospital. If you require new medications or a repeat prescription, these will incur a cost. Depending on your circumstances, you may be required to pay for this.

Private Health Insurance, DVA or Workers Compensation Patients

As a Privately Insured, DVA or Workers Compensation patient, you may have some out of pocket expenses at the end of your hospital stay. This is dependant on your level of cover and the hospital's agreement with your fund or organisation. Often this applies to medication which is dispensed on discharge or if a repeat script is filled for your current medication. In this circumstance you will be required to pay for these items before you leave the hospital.

Self-Insured Patients

If you are a self insured patient you will be required to pay for all new or repeat prescription medications dispensed during your hospital stay.

How much will my medication cost?

The Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) provides government subsidy for many medicines. If you have a valid Medicare Card, you will receive the subsidy for PBS eligible medication during your stay. This will incur the same price reduction that you receive at your local pharmacy. Medicines not covered by the PBS will be charged at the normal retail price.

For people who do not hold a Medicare Card, all medication will be charged at the normal retail price.

If you wish to know the cost of medication at any stage during your hospitalisation, please direct this query to our pharmacy staff.

What do I need to do about my medication when I'm discharged?

Understand my medication regime

When you are preparing to be discharged, an EPIC Pharmacist may visit to ensure you are prepared for your medication regime when you arrive home. They will address a range of items including:

- What medications you are now taking and the dosage of each
- What medication you have stopped since you were hospitalised
- What medication you have started since you were hospitalised
- What medication is to be taken on a short-term only, i.e. only for a few days
- What side effects your medication could cause
- If your medication interferes with any other medication you're taking
- If your medication restricts driving and food or alcohol intake

At EPIC we believe it is important that you understand your new medication regime before you return home. This will ensure you administer the medication correctly to help you on the path to recovery.

Check my safety net total

If you wish to update your local pharmacy regarding the total of your safety net, please request a Prescription Record Form from EPIC Pharmacy. A printout of this will be given to you on discharge.

Advise if I don't want any discharge medications dispensed

If you have a supply of some medications at home, and do not wish to receive these when you are discharged, it is important you advise our pharmacy staff in regards to this. If not, you will be charged for the medications dispensed.

Update my General Practitioner

As your General Practitioner is responsible for your ongoing care, it is important you update them of any changes to your medication. You can request a Discharge Medication Summary, which outlines this information.

If you have any pharmacy queries during your hospital stay, please don't hesitate to contact one of our friendly staff.