

Prescription Subsidy Card

Many medicines are subsidised by the government. The prescription charge (co-payment) is a small contribution people pay towards the cost of the medicines they receive. For most people, this charge is \$5 for each new prescription item. New Zealanders can reduce their medicine costs with the Prescription Subsidy Card.

What is the Prescription Subsidy Card?

Once you have the Prescription Subsidy Card, you do not have to pay any more prescription charges for the rest of the year. Since 1 July 2015, Prescription Subsidy Card holders who previously paid \$2 per prescription no longer have to.

You are eligible for the card once you have paid for 20 new prescription medicine items from 1 February each year.

If you live with a partner or any dependent child under 18, you can combine your items to reach this total. Tell your regular pharmacist the names of all the people in your family, and the ages of the children as well, to help them keep track of how many items you've paid for.

Any children over 18 should get their own card, even if they live with you. If they're over 16 and are financially independent from you, they also get their own card.

Medicines that are not funded by the government are not included in this total.

The Prescription Subsidy Card expires each year on 31 January.

How do I get a Prescription Subsidy Card?

If you go to a regular pharmacy, they'll keep a prescription count for you and give you your card as soon as you reach 20 items.

If you go to a different pharmacy from your usual one, or you go to a different pharmacy each time, **keep all your receipts**.

- Take the receipts to your regular pharmacy so they can add them to your record
- or
- when you get to 20 items, take your receipts into any pharmacy and ask them for a card.

How do I use it?

Just show the pharmacist your Prescription Subsidy Card when you hand in your prescription to the pharmacy, and you will not have to pay the \$5 prescription charge. You should not have to show your Prescription Subsidy Card to the pharmacy that gave it to you.

Do children need their own Prescription Subsidy Card?

No. Most prescriptions for children under 13 years old are **free**. Older children up to the age of 18 can be included in your family's Prescription Subsidy Card.

Are there any other charges for my medicine?

Even if you have the Prescription Subsidy Card, you may be asked to pay the full cost of your medicine if it is a medicine that is not funded by the government.

Where can I get more information?

For more information about the Prescription Subsidy Card, go to www.health.govt.nz or call 0800 855 066.