

Providing pharmacy support to community in a disaster

In times of a declared natural disaster or emergency, pharmacists can continue to support patients to access eligible essential medicines at the usual Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) or Repatriation Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (RPBS) cost. These Australian Government arrangements complement emergency supply provisions available under NSW legislation, such as the seven days emergency medicine supply without a prescription.

This factsheet outlines how to assist patients presenting at your pharmacy in disaster situations.

Situation	Pathways
<p>Patient presents at pharmacy without a script (emergency situation i.e. flood/fire etc)</p>	<p>1: “Seven day emergency supply” Up to seven days’ supply can be provided without a prescription for essential treatment to a patient who has previously been prescribed medication, where there is an immediate need for treatment and the patient is unable to obtain a prescription.</p> <p>This option does not allow supply of Schedule 4, Appendix D medicines, or Schedule 8 medicines.</p> <p>Supply needs to be in accordance with Clause 45 of the Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Regulation 2008.</p> <hr/>
	<p>2: “Owing Prescriptions” The patient’s GP can be contacted by the pharmacist (if this is possible) and the GP can order any S4 or S8 medicine verbally (by telephone) or in written form (e.g. via secure messaging, fax or email). The GP is required to forward a prescription (electronic or paper prescription) to the pharmacy within seven days of supply, in accordance with NSW legislation.</p> <p>Supply needs to be in accordance with Clause 36 or Clause 81 of the Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Regulation 2008.</p> <hr/>
	<p>3: “Continued Dispensing” The supply of a standard quantity (usually one month supply) of eligible PBS Schedule 4 medicines without a prescription.</p> <p>This allows supply of many ongoing essential medicines, such as antihypertensives and statins.</p> <p>The list of eligible PBS medicines for Continued Dispensing is available at www.pbs.gov.au/info/general/continued-dispensing.</p> <p>A single standard pack can be supplied at the usual PBS price once within a 12-month period.</p> <p>Patients must have an immediate need for the medicine, been supplied the medicine on a PBS prescription in the last three months, be stabilised on the treatment, and the prescriber must be uncontactable or unable to provide an electronic script.</p> <p>Supply needs to be in accordance with the PSA Guidelines for the Continued Dispensing of Eligible Prescribed Medicines by Pharmacists.</p> <p>Supply also needs to be in accordance with the conditions specified in the National Health (Continued Dispensing) Determination 2022. This includes for supply, recording supply and communicating supply with the patient’s usual prescriber.</p>

Situation

Pathways

Disaster declared (floods/bushfires etc)

For patients unable to obtain essential medicines using the above options, NSW Health provides urgent medical care access pathways through healthdirect (on **1800 022 222**).

Patients can access GP virtual consults or ED physician consults virtually in all disaster regions. Patients can then present with an e-script to the pharmacist or nominate the pharmacy where the script will be sent.

Patient presents at pharmacy and does not meet above criteria for script supply

Patients can call healthdirect (on **1800 022 222**) for clinical urgency and, based on nurse assessment, will get appropriate care advice and connection including regular GP appointments, virtual GP consults or secondary advice. Patients can then present with an e-script to the pharmacist or nominate the pharmacy where the script will be sent.

Patient entitlement

If a patient does not have their Medicare, DVA or Centrelink card, you can contact the **PBS Inquiry line 13 22 90 (press option 1)**, for assistance with Medicare or concessional details.

Telecommunications impact on PBS online

Natural disaster or emergency may affect telecommunication capacity in some areas. Approved pharmacies in these areas may not have real-time connection to Service Australia for prescription verification and entitlement checking. Any service interruption will not affect pharmacy PBS claiming as dispensing software will store all claimed items until connection with Services Australia through PBS Online is restored and validation can occur.

Emergency relocation of a pharmacy

Pharmacists seeking to temporarily relocate their approved pharmacy due to damage from a natural disaster or emergency should send an email to pbsapprovedsuppliers@health.gov.au or phone **1800 316 389** quoting the name of the affected pharmacy, its current PBS approval number, addresses of the current and temporary premises, and expected timeframe for return to the approved premises.

You will also need to contact the NSW Pharmacy Council to ensure the new pharmacy site meets NSW guidelines: [Pharmacy Council of NSW](#).

The Department of Health and Aged Care will advise wholesale distributors of the temporary approval to supply PBS medicines at alternative premises to facilitate delivery of PBS medicines to the temporary address.

NB: The PBS pharmacy approval number will not change for these temporary relocations. Pharmacists are also required to continue to comply with State legislation with regards to the temporary premises they will be using, including medicine storage requirements.

Pharmaceutical benefits that may be supplied without a prescription

1. Abacavir
2. Abacavir with lamivudine
3. Abacavir with lamivudine and zidovudine
4. Acarbose
5. Adefovir
6. Alogliptin
7. Alogliptin with metformin
8. Amiloride with hydrochlorothiazide
9. Amlodipine
10. Amlodipine with atorvastatin
11. Amlodipine with valsartan
12. Amlodipine with valsartan and hydrochlorothiazide
13. Atazanavir
14. Atazanavir with cobicistat
15. Atenolol
16. Atorvastatin
17. Beclometasone
18. Formoterol (eformoterol)
19. Bictegravir with emtricitabine with tenofovir alafenamide
20. Bisoprolol
21. Budesonide
22. Formoterol (eformoterol)
23. Candesartan
24. Candesartan with hydrochlorothiazide
25. Captopril
26. Carvedilol
27. Chlortalidone
28. Ciclesonide
29. Cromoglycate
30. Dapagliflozin
31. Dapagliflozin with metformin
32. Darunavir
33. Darunavir with cobicistat
34. Darunavir with cobicistat, emtricitabine and tenofovir alafenamide
35. Diltiazem
36. Dolutegravir
37. Dolutegravir with abacavir and lamivudine
38. Dolutegravir with lamivudine
39. Dolutegravir with rilpivirine
40. Dulaglutide
41. Efavirenz
42. Empagliflozin
43. Empagliflozin with linagliptin
44. Empagliflozin with metformin
45. Emtricitabine with rilpivirine with tenofovir alafenamide
46. Emtricitabine with tenofovir alafenamide
47. Enalapril
48. Enalapril with hydrochlorothiazide
49. Enfuvirtide
50. Entecavir
51. Eplerenone
52. Eprosartan
53. Eprosartan with hydrochlorothiazide
54. Ertugliflozin
55. Ertugliflozin with metformin
56. Ertugliflozin with sitagliptin
57. Etacrynic acid
58. Etravirine
59. Exenatide
60. Ezetimibe with atorvastatin
61. Ezetimibe with rosuvastatin
62. Ezetimibe with simvastatin
63. Felodipine
64. Fluticasone furoate
65. Vilanterol
66. Fluticasone propionate
67. Formoterol (eformoterol)
68. Salmeterol
69. Fluvastatin
70. Formoterol (eformoterol)
71. Fosamprenavir
72. Fosinopril
73. Fosinopril with hydrochlorothiazide
74. Furosemide (frusemide)
75. Glibenclamide
76. Gliclazide
77. Glimepiride
78. Glipizide
79. Hydrochlorothiazide
80. Indacaterol
81. Mometasone
82. Indapamide
83. Insulin aspart
84. Insulin aspart with insulin aspart protamine
85. Insulin degludec with insulin aspart
86. Insulin detemir
87. Insulin glargine
88. Insulin glulisine
89. Insulin isophane human
90. Insulin isophane human with insulin neutral human
91. Insulin lispro
92. Insulin lispro with insulin lispro protamine
93. Insulin neutral human
94. Irbesartan
95. Irbesartan with hydrochlorothiazide
96. Labetalol
97. Lamivudine
98. Lamivudine with zidovudine
99. Lercanidipine
100. Lercanidipine with enalapril
101. Levonorgestrel
102. Levonorgestrel with ethinylestradiol
103. Linagliptin
104. Linagliptin with metformin
105. Lisinopril
106. Lopinavir with ritonavir
107. Losartan
108. Maraviroc
109. Metformin
110. Metformin with glibenclamide
111. Metoprolol succinate
112. Metoprolol tartrate
113. Nebivolol
114. Nedocromil
115. Nevirapine
116. Nifedipine
117. Norethisterone
118. Norethisterone with ethinylestradiol
119. Mestranol
120. Olmesartan
121. Olmesartan with amlodipine and hydrochlorothiazide
122. Olmesartan with hydrochlorothiazide
123. Olmesartan medoxomil with amlodipine
124. Oxprenolol
125. Perindopril
126. Perindopril with amlodipine
127. Perindopril with indapamide
128. Pindolol
129. Pioglitazone
130. Pravastatin
131. Propranolol
132. Quinapril
133. Quinapril with hydrochlorothiazide
134. Raltegravir
135. Ramipril
136. Ramipril with felodipine
137. Rilpivirine
138. Ritonavir
139. Rosuvastatin
140. Sacubitril with valsartan
141. Salbutamol
142. Salmeterol
143. Saquinavir
144. Saxagliptin
145. Saxagliptin with dapagliflozin
146. Saxagliptin with metformin
147. Semaglutide
148. Simvastatin
149. Sitagliptin
150. Sitagliptin with metformin
151. Spironolactone
152. Telmisartan
153. Telmisartan with amlodipine
154. Telmisartan with hydrochlorothiazide
155. Tenofovir with emtricitabine
156. Tenofovir with emtricitabine and efavirenz
157. Tenofovir alafenamide with emtricitabine, elvitegravir and cobicistat
158. Tenofovir disoproxil
159. Terbutaline
160. Tipranavir
161. Trandolapril
162. Trandolapril with verapamil
163. Valsartan
164. Valsartan with hydrochlorothiazide
165. Verapamil
166. Vildagliptin
167. Vildagliptin with metformin
168. Zidovudine

Source: [PBS Continued Dispensing Determination 2022 Drug List Extract](#)