

Patient:

Date:

Medicines Access Programs

What are Medicines Access Programs?

Public hospitals and the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) cannot fund the supply of all medicines. Hospitals may need to use special programs called Medicines Access Programs (MAPs) to supply new or high-cost medicines. MAPs lower the cost of these medicines so the hospital can supply them. Supply of these special MAP medicines often differs from the normal way you get your medicines.

MAPs are special contracts between:



hospital
doctors



public
hospitals



and the companies that
make the medicines
(pharmaceutical companies).

There are many types of MAPs, and each has its own rules. MAPs also go by other names such as:

- cost-share agreements
- compassionate supply
- product familiarisation programs.

Before you can get the medicine, there is an approval process that must take place. This makes sure that everyone agrees on how to supply the medicine and for how long.

What happens

The doctor will talk with you about:



- how the MAP medicine may help
- possible side effects of the medicine
- any questions you or a carer may have
- why we need to use a MAP to get the medicine.

If you or a carer agree this is the right choice, the doctor will apply to use the medicine.

If approved, a member of the healthcare team will talk with you about:



- how and when to get the medicine
- how to take or give the medicine
- how you will know if the medicine is working
- any tests needed such as blood tests and scans
- if there is any cost to you. See ["Do I have to pay for the MAP medicine?"](#)

Your healthcare team can consist of doctors, nurses, pharmacists and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers/Practitioners.

Researchers are often still studying MAP medicines, so they may ask for the following details:



- how well the medicine is working
- if there are any side effects
- test results (e.g. blood tests, scans)
- age and gender of the person using the medicine.

The healthcare team will talk with you about this before starting the medicine.



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What to do

It is important for you or a carer to:



- think about the choices
- note down any questions
- talk about the care plan with the doctor.

**5 Questions
to ask**



You or a carer may need to sign a patient consent form. The consent form will make sure you understand the possible risks and costs of the medicine. The hospital will keep the signed form in their records.

You or a carer can decide to stop using the MAP medicine at any time.

If you want to stop, talk to the doctor in case you need to stop the medicine slowly.

Where to get the medicine



If approved, the hospital's pharmacy will find, store and supply the MAP medicine. If you live in a remote area, you may be able to collect it from a local pharmacy/health centre. Please note the medicine may not be on hand if you go to a new hospital.

Talk to the healthcare team if you plan to move, travel or change hospitals.

Do I have to pay for the MAP medicine?



The hospital will let you know about any costs. Sometimes, the MAP medicine will be free, or the hospital may ask you to pay a set price. The price can change between hospitals.

What happens if the MAP ends or the medicine is not approved or not available?

If the MAP ends, the hospital or local pharmacy may be able to supply the medicine without a MAP. In some cases, the MAP medicine may not get approved or the medicine may no longer be available. If this happens the healthcare team will talk with you about:

- trying to get the medicine a different way
- switching to a new medicine or exploring other treatments
- moving to a private healthcare service (noting there might be extra costs*).

*Note: private services are often very costly. Ask what the costs will be before moving to a private service.

Where to get more information



Talk to a member of the healthcare team if you have any questions. If you feel you need support talking to your healthcare team, you can ask for help from:

- family
- friends
- a carer, or
- a trusted patient support person.

Please be aware that pharmaceutical companies may give general advice about MAPs. They cannot give specific healthcare advice.

My MAP medicine

Medicine:

This medicine will treat:
(add patient's illness)

If you have any questions, please call:

Name:

Telephone:

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