

Patient eligibility to receive Highly Specialised Drugs under Section 100 arrangements

Persons eligible for Commonwealth subsidy through this program must be a patient attending a public hospital and be a:

- > day admitted patient
- > non-admitted patient
- > patient on discharge

The patient must be under appropriate specialist care and be an eligible person under the *National Health Insurance Act 1973*. If the criteria under the Act should change, then eligible person requirements will adjust accordingly.

An eligible person must be an Australian resident, a person covered by Reciprocal Health Care Agreement or an eligible overseas representative.

Australian resident means a person who resides permanently in Australia and is:

- > an Australian citizen
- > a person who holds a permanent visa
- > a New Zealand citizen
- > an applicant for a permanent residence in certain circumstances (see Interim card below).

An eligible person is entitled to have one of the following:

- > a Medicare card (green) which is issued to Australian permanent residents and Australian citizens
- > a Medicare card (blue), stamped 'INTERIM CARD', which is issued in certain circumstances to persons who have applied for permanent resident status

Note: Interim cards may have an expiry date later than the eligibility date both for Medicare and for PBS subsidy (including HSD) if the applicant's application has been withdrawn or refused.

- > a Medicare card (yellow) stamped 'RECIPROCAL HEALTH CARE', which is issued to visitors from Belgium, Finland, Italy, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and the UK.

Note: Visitors from New Zealand and Ireland are eligible for PBS on presentation of their passports.

Note: Supply of medicines to persons from the above countries is limited to the original prescription only. Repeat prescriptions are not permitted.

An eligible person who has enrolled recently in Medicare, but has not yet received a card, will have been given a receipt with a Medicare number. This receipt is evidence of eligibility.

An eligible overseas representative includes:

- > the head of a diplomatic mission or consular post, established in Australia, of those countries with which Australia has a Reciprocal Health Care Agreement, except for New Zealand and Norway.
- > staff of those diplomatic missions or consular posts
- > family members of heads of staff of those diplomatic missions or consular posts.

Eligible overseas representatives will have a green Medicare card. Where this is not available a Medicare special number can be used in these instances.

Source: Medicare Australia. Highly Specialised Drugs (HSD) in public hospitals. Online solution information guide.

Accessed from: <http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/provider/pbs/highly-specialised-drugs/files/3008-electronic-claiming-highly-specialised-drugs-public-hospitals.pdf>

For more information

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