

Patient Information & Frequently Asked Questions

Post-discharge medication service

The post-discharge medication service (PDMS) is a new service funded by the SA Government for people returning home from hospital. The service is conducted by community pharmacists and will provide people with support and advice about their medicines following discharge from hospital to help them manage their medicines and help prevent medication-related hospital readmissions.

Why might this service be useful to me?

Understanding and managing medicines can be tricky especially if you take multiple medicines or your medicines change over time. While you're in hospital there are often changes made to the medicines you take at home. It's not always easy to understand these changes while you are in hospital.

The post-discharge medication service is available after you've been discharged from hospital. It is a dedicated time to talk to a pharmacist about your medicines. You can ask them questions and get the information you need so you can use your medicines safely.

What does the service involve?

The service involves a consult with a community pharmacist for around 30 minutes. The consult may occur at the community pharmacy, or in your home, depending on your preference and in discussion with your pharmacist. It can also be conducted by video call. The pharmacist needs to be able to see your medicines during the consult, so telephone consults are not permitted.

You should bring all the medicines you take with you to your appointment, as well as any lists or documents given to you by the hospital pharmacist upon discharge. The pharmacist will ask you questions about the medicines you take. You can also ask the pharmacist questions and tell them about any concerns you may have.

At the end of the consult the pharmacist will give you some updated written information about your medicines. They will also give this information to your General Practitioner (GP) and to the referring Hospital Pharmacist (HP).

What is the cost of the service?

The PDMS service is free.

Who is eligible for the service?

Patients discharging from Flinders Medical Centre (FMC) or Royal Adelaide Hospital (RAH) are eligible for referral to the PDMS. You must be living at home in a community setting. The hospital pharmacist will assess your eligibility during your hospital admission.

How is the service organised?

The hospital pharmacist will talk with you about the service, assess your eligibility and start the referral process while you're in hospital. If you agree and provide consent for the service, they will send information about your medications and your contact details to your nominated participating community pharmacy. Once you've returned home, the community pharmacist will call you to book a time and place for the consult.

Which community pharmacy performs the service?

There are many community pharmacies participating in the service across the state. The hospital pharmacist can help you select your preferred community pharmacy during your hospital admission.

Is my personal information recorded?

Yes. The hospital pharmacist needs to record and provide some of your personal information to your nominated community pharmacy so they can conduct the service. Your personal information will also be provided to SA Health for evaluation and verification purposes. There will also be communication between the pharmacists and your GP. If you don't consent to the collection of your information for these purposes, you will not be able to access the free service. For more information, read the SA Health privacy policy at www.sahealth.sa.gov.au.

What information is given to me after the service?

The community pharmacy will provide you with a list of your medications, and an action plan. The action plan is developed with you. It records any agreed follow-up actions that might be required.

Is information provided to my doctor?

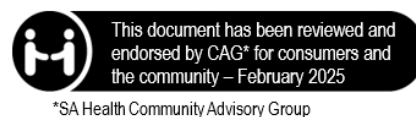
Yes. The hospital pharmacist will ask you to verify the details of your general practitioner (GP) which will be provided to the community pharmacy. Your GP will be contacted by the community pharmacy and will also be provided with the medication list and the action plan. Please take the medication list with you whenever you visit your GP or community pharmacy, so they can make any necessary additions or alteration.

Is information provided back to the hospital?

Yes. The referring hospital pharmacist will be provided with the medication list and the action plan by the community pharmacist. These will be filed in your hospital medical record.

For more information

SA Health
Department for Health and Wellbeing
Office of the Chief Pharmacist
11 Hindmarsh Square, Adelaide SA 5000
Telephone: +61 8 8204 1944
Email: Health.OfficeoftheChiefPharmacist@sa.gov.au
<https://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au>



www.ausgoal.gov.au/creative-commons



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