

High Use Health Card

Also known as the High User Card or Health Card, this card (HUHC) lowers the cost of prescribed medicines for people with an ongoing condition who have visited the doctor 12 times or more in the last 12 months.

The HUHC helps people who do not have a Community Services Card, but who have high GP and prescription costs because of ongoing health problems. You can apply for this card through your GP.

Prescription Subsidy Card

Also known as a Pharmaceutical Subsidy Card, Safety Net Card or Exemption Card, this card (PSC) allows the cardholder and named family members to pay lower government prescription charges.

People can have a PSC once the family has had 20 new prescribed items in one year (1 Feb to 31 Jan), not counting prescriptions with a \$0 charge. Your pharmacy will keep count of your prescriptions. If you get prescriptions from several pharmacies, take your receipts to one nominated pharmacy. Talk to your pharmacist about the PSC.

Community Services Card

The Community Services Card (CSC) may lower the cost of GP visits and prescription charges.

Any family whose income before tax is less than the amount set by the Ministry of Social Development, and who ordinarily live in New Zealand, can have a CSC.

You can obtain a CSC through the Ministry of Social Development by phoning 0800 999 999 or applying via the website:

www.workandincome.govt.nz

When a person has a CSC and a Prescription Subsidy Card, there is no prescription charge (see diagram).

SuperGold Card

The SuperGold Card is for New Zealand residents aged 65 or over, or who qualify for NZ Super or a Veteran's Pension. The card replaces the Super Card and CSC, and will note CSC entitlement on it for people who are eligible.

This brochure was prepared by:
The Planning and Funding Division
Nelson Marlborough District Health Board
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Nelson

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Prescription Charges

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Government Charges

The Nelson Marlborough District Health Board would like to help you understand the charges you should pay for prescriptions.

When you take your prescription to a pharmacy, much of the cost will be paid by the DHB. You will have to make a contribution to the cost. Most people now pay \$3 or less per item but there are some exceptions (see diagram).

Some medicines are not fully subsidised by Government. You will have to pay extra for those medicines.

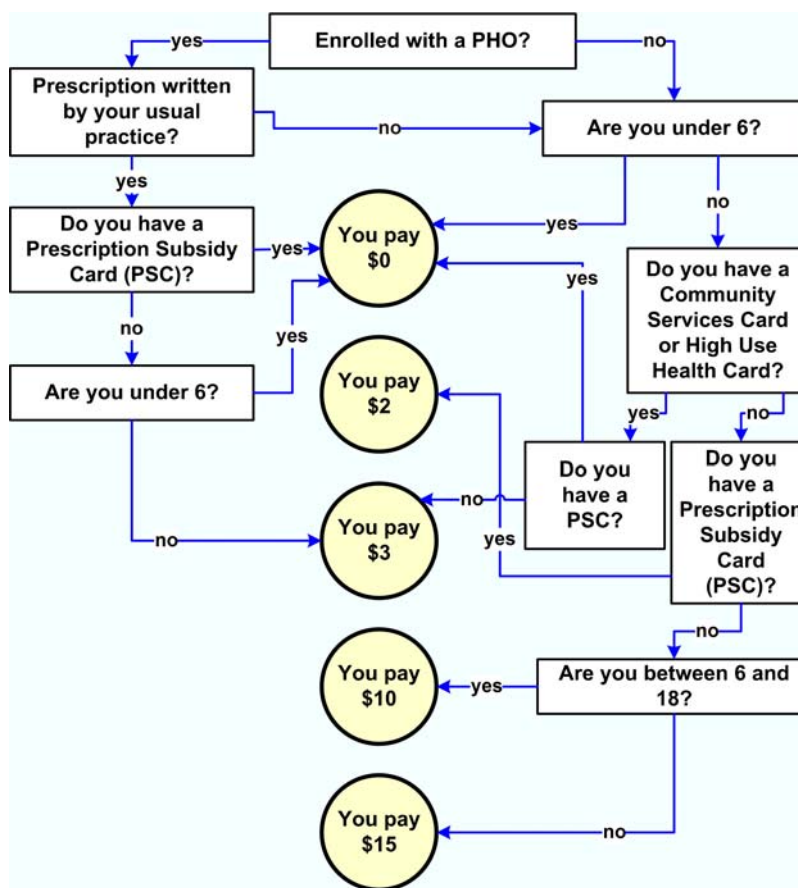
For non-subsidised medicines you will need to pay the full cost.

Please check with your GP or pharmacist whether you are prescribed a medicine that is fully subsidised.

How Much Should You Pay?

For fully subsidised medicines, the amount you can expect to pay for **each item** prescribed is as follows:

To find out how much you will pay, answer the first question and then follow the arrow with your answer, answering each question you come across.



Pharmacy Charges

Before your prescription can be dispensed, it may need extra work, or you may ask for an extra service. Examples of this include faxed prescriptions, following up on omissions or mistakes in prescriptions, special packaging or delivery. Pharmacies may charge you for these services as they are not covered by the DHB's agreement.

These charges can vary and the DHB requires them to be applied only to items needing extra work or service.

Your pharmacist will give you information about pharmacy charges before your prescription is dispensed. You can then choose whether or not you want the extra service.

If you are concerned about any extra charges, please ask your pharmacist for more information.

If you then wish to discuss your charges further, please contact:

Planning and Funding Division
Nelson Marlborough DHB
Private Bag 18
Nelson

