Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) prescription—PBS item prescribed, code NN[NNN]A

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# Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) prescription—PBS item prescribed, code NN[NNN]A

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| Identifying and definitional attributes |
| Metadata item type: | Data Element |
| Short name: | PBS item prescribed |
| Synonymous names: | PBS item code; PBS item number; Supplied item number; Item code |
| METEOR identifier: | 600778 |
| Registration status: | [Commonwealth Department of Health](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/10), Retired 19/10/2023 |
| Definition: | The Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) item prescribed in a claim for a benefit under the PBS, as represented by a PBS item code.This includes under co-payment claims where no benefit is paid, i.e. instances where the dispensed price of the prescribed medicinal or therapeutic product is less than the amount of the applicable co-payment. |
| Data Element Concept: | [Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) prescription—PBS item prescribed](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/600289)  |
| Value Domain: | [Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) item code NN[NNN]A](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/600257) |

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| Value domain attributes |
| Representational attributes |
| Classification scheme: | [Schedule of Pharmaceutical Benefits](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/600767) |
| Representation class: | Code |
| Data type: | String |
| Format: | NN[NNN]A |
| Maximum character length: | 6 |

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| Collection and usage attributes |
| Guide for use: | A fifth numeric character was added to the PBS item code in 2013. The allocation of item codes with the additional digit commenced with the PBS schedule applicable from 1 December 2013, with older codes remaining valid where appropriate.The final alphabetic character is a check digit. |

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| Source and reference attributes |
| Submitting organisation: | Department of Health |
| Reference documents: | Department of Health 2015. Schedule of Pharmaceutical Benefits. Department of Health, Canberra. Viewed 18 September 2015, <http://www.pbs.gov.au/browse/publications>Department of Health 2015. Repatriation Schedule of Pharmaceutical Benefits. Department of Health, Canberra. Viewed 22 October 2015, <http://www.pbs.gov.au/browse/rpbs> |

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| Data element attributes  |
| Collection and usage attributes |
| Guide for use: | PBS items are differentiated via a number of characteristics, including:* the active ingredient of the medicinal or therapeutic product,
* the strength of the medicinal or therapeutic product, often expressed in terms of the weight or liquid concentration of the active ingredient,
* the form of the medicinal or therapeutic product and its manner of administration, e.g. a tablet, a capsule, an oral liquid, an injection etc.,
* the maximum quantity of the medicinal or therapeutic product to be supplied at any one time,
* the number of repeats, i.e. either a 'single supply' prescription that allows no repeats, or a prescription that allows the supply of a number of repeats up to a specific maximum number,
* any other restrictions associated with the use of the medicinal or therapeutic product, e.g. specific clinical criteria that must be met in order for the product to be administered,
* the specific scheme under which the medicinal or therapeutic product is prescribed and/or any associated benefit is administered.

**Example (based on information current as at October 2015)**The drug hyoscine butylbromide, used to treat pain and discomfort caused by abdominal cramps, menstrual cramps or other spasmodic activity in the digestive system, is supplied in a pack of 5 x 1 mL ampoules, at a strength of 20 mg/mL, in injectable form.Under the provisions of the general PBS, the applicable item code is either '5317W' (up to 3 repeats allowed) or '5318X' (no repeats allowed), depending on the clinical need of the patient as determined by the prescriber. Under these item codes, a maximum of 6 packs can be supplied at any one time.The same item, supplied under the Prescriber Bag provisions of the PBS, is item code '3473T'. A maximum of 1 pack can be supplied at any one time.If supplied under the provisions of the Repatriation Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (RPBS), the same item is item code '4279F', with no repeats allowed. A maximum of 1 pack can be supplied at any one time. |
| Source and reference attributes |
| Submitting organisation: | Department of Health |
| Relational attributes |
| Implementation in Data Set Specifications: | [Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) state/territory data extract 2013-14](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/602524)       [Commonwealth Department of Health](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/10), Retired 19/10/2023***Implementation start date:*** 01/07/2013***Implementation end date:*** 30/06/2014***DSS specific information:*** Variable name = ITM\_CD |
| Implementation in Indicators: | **Used as Numerator**[1.1 Number of PBS prescriptions dispensed for antimicrobials per 100,000 people, 2013–14](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/611638)       [Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/18), Standard 23/11/2016       [National Health Performance Authority (retired)](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/8), Retired 01/07/2016[1.2 Number of PBS prescriptions dispensed for quinolones per 100,000 people, 2013–14](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/611631)       [Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/18), Standard 23/11/2016       [National Health Performance Authority (retired)](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/8), Retired 01/07/2016[1.3a Number of PBS prescriptions dispensed for amoxycillin per 100,000 people, 2013–14](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/611634)       [Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/18), Standard 23/11/2016       [National Health Performance Authority (retired)](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/8), Retired 01/07/2016[1.3b Number of PBS prescriptions dispensed for amoxycillin-clavulanate per 100,000 people, 2013–14](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/611636)       [Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/18), Standard 23/11/2016       [National Health Performance Authority (retired)](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/8), Retired 01/07/2016[4.10 Number of PBS prescriptions dispensed for ADHD medicines per 100,000 people aged 17 years and under, 2013–14](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/611676)       [Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/18), Standard 23/11/2016       [National Health Performance Authority (retired)](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/8), Retired 01/07/2016[4.2, 4.3, 4.4 Number of PBS prescriptions dispensed for antidepressant medicines per 100,000 people, 2013–14](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/611661)       [Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/18), Standard 23/11/2016       [National Health Performance Authority (retired)](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/8), Retired 01/07/2016[4.5, 4.6 Number of PBS prescriptions dispensed for anxiolytic medicines per 100,000 people, 2013–14](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/611674)       [Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/18), Standard 23/11/2016       [National Health Performance Authority (retired)](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/8), Retired 01/07/2016[4.7, 4.8, 4.9 Number of PBS prescriptions dispensed for antipsychotic medicines per 100,000 people, 2013–14](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/611652)       [Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/18), Standard 23/11/2016       [National Health Performance Authority (retired)](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/8), Retired 01/07/2016[5.1 Number of PBS prescriptions dispensed for opioid medicines per 100,000 people, 2013–14](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/611687)       [Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/18), Standard 23/11/2016       [National Health Performance Authority (retired)](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/8), Retired 01/07/2016[6.1, 6.2, 6.3 Number of PBS prescriptions dispensed for asthma medicines per 100,000 people, 2013–14](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/611645)       [Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/18), Standard 23/11/2016       [National Health Performance Authority (retired)](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/8), Retired 01/07/2016[6.10 Number of PBS prescriptions dispensed for anticholinesterase medicines per 100,000 people aged 65 years and over, 2013–14](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/611658)       [Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/18), Standard 23/11/2016       [National Health Performance Authority (retired)](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/8), Retired 01/07/2016[Australian Atlas of Healthcare Variation 2018: Number of PBS/RPBS prescriptions dispensed for ADHD medicines per 100,000 people, aged 17 years and under, 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/709507)       [Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/18), Standard 13/12/2018[Australian Atlas of Healthcare Variation 2018: Number of PBS/RPBS prescriptions dispensed for amoxicillin per 100,000 people, 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/709492)       [Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/18), Standard 13/12/2018[Australian Atlas of Healthcare Variation 2018: Number of PBS/RPBS prescriptions dispensed for amoxicillin-clavulanate per 100,000 people, 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/709500)       [Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/18), Standard 13/12/2018[Australian Atlas of Healthcare Variation 2018: Number of PBS/RPBS prescriptions dispensed for antibiotic medicines per 100,000 children aged 9 years and under, 2016-17](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/709170)       [Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/18), Standard 13/12/2018[Australian Atlas of Healthcare Variation 2018: Number of PBS/RPBS prescriptions dispensed for antimicrobials per 100,000 people, 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/709488)       [Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/18), Standard 13/12/2018[Australian Atlas of Healthcare Variation 2018: Number of PBS/RPBS prescriptions dispensed for antipsychotic medicines per 100,000 people, 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 (i) Age 17 years & under, (ii) Age 18 - 64 years, (iii) Age 65 years & over](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/709504)       [Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/18), Standard 13/12/2018[Australian Atlas of Healthcare Variation 2018: Number of PBS/RPBS prescriptions dispensed for opioid medicines per 100,000 people, 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/709514)       [Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/18), Standard 13/12/2018[Australian Atlas of Healthcare Variation 2018: Number of PBS/RPBS prescriptions dispensed for proton pump inhibitor medicines per 100,000 people aged (i) 18 years and over, (ii) 1 year and under, 2016-17](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/709274)       [Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/18), Standard 13/12/2018[Number of PBS/RPBS prescriptions dispensed for amoxicillin per 100,000 people, 2017-18](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/723565)       [Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/18), Standard 22/09/2020[Number of PBS/RPBS prescriptions dispensed for amoxicillin-clavulanate per 100,000 people, 2017-18](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/723567)       [Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/18), Standard 22/09/2020[Number of PBS/RPBS prescriptions dispensed for antimicrobials per 100,000 people, 2017-18](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/723543)       [Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/18), Standard 22/09/2020[Number of PBS/RPBS prescriptions dispensed for antipsychotic medicines per 100,000 people, aged 65 years and over, 2016–17 to 2020–21](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/752714)       [Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/18), Standard 15/09/2022[Number of PBS/RPBS prescriptions dispensed for opioid medicines per 100,000 people, all ages 2016-17 to 2020-21](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/754809)       [Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/18), Standard 15/09/2022 |