

# Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) state/territory data extract 2013-14

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# Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) state/territory data extract 2013-14

## Identifying and definitional attributes

<b>Metadata item type:</b>	Data Set Specification
<b>METEOR identifier:</b>	602524
<b>Registration status:</b>	<a href="#">Commonwealth Department of Health</a> , Retired 19/10/2023
<b>DSS type:</b>	Data Set Specification (DSS)

**Scope:**

This data set specification describes the output data set made available to each Australian state and territory via the Commonwealth Department of Health's Enterprise Data Warehouse (EDW) in relation to the ongoing operations of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS). It describes the PBS data items supplied in respect of the 2013-14 reference year, i.e. those data records where the date of completed validation is between 1 July 2013 and 30 June 2014 inclusive.

The data set contains data as presented for analysis by users of the EDW, i.e. the data has generally undergone some degree of validation or reformatting in comparison with the raw input data sets provided to the Department of Health by the Commonwealth Department of Human Services.

The PBS is a programme under which the cost of prescription medications provided to consumers is subsidised by the Australian Government. Under the PBS, the government subsidises the cost of medicine for most medical conditions.

Benefits provided under the PBS, in the form of subsidised over-the-counter prices for prescription medications, are available to all Australian residents who hold a Medicare card, as well as to visitors to Australia from countries with which Australia has a Reciprocal Health Care Agreement (RHCA). As at 1 July 2015, the countries with which Australia has an RHCA include the United Kingdom, Ireland, New Zealand, Malta, Italy, Sweden, the Netherlands, Finland, Norway, Belgium and Slovenia.

Under the PBS, some types of medical professionals can only prescribe a subset of the medications listed in the general PBS schedule, e.g. dental practitioners can only prescribe the dental care medicines listed in the separate Dental schedule. Similarly, optometrists can only prescribe the eye care medicines listed in the separate Optometrical schedule.

Most of the medicines listed in the various PBS schedules are dispensed by pharmacists and used by patients at home. Some medicines, e.g. chemotherapy drugs, are dangerous to administer without medical supervision and are only accessible at specialised medical services, usually hospitals.

The PBS is managed by the Department of Health and administered by the Department of Human Services. The PBS is governed by the *National Health Act 1953* (Cwth) and the *National Health (Pharmaceutical Benefits) Regulations 1960* (Cwth).

The data set also contains data sourced from a number of assistance programmes that are related to but not strictly part of the PBS, e.g. the Repatriation Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (RPBS) and the Stoma Assistance Scheme (SAS).

The RPBS is a scheme administered by the Department of Veterans' Affairs under which the cost of prescription medications provided to veterans of Australia's defence force, their widows/widowers and dependants is subsidised by the Australian Government. The RPBS offers a wider range of medications at concessional rates than the PBS.

The Stoma Appliance Scheme (SAS) provides support to people with a stoma by improving access to the most suitable and clinically appropriate stoma-related products. A stoma is a temporary or permanent body opening, either natural or surgically created, which connects a portion of the body cavity to the outside environment to allow bodily waste to leave the body.

In some use cases, data produced in accordance with the structures described in this data set specification may need to be suppressed, de-identified or perturbed by the Department of Health in order to protect the privacy and/or confidentiality of individual patients, prescribers or pharmacies.

## Collection and usage attributes

**Statistical unit:**

The data described in this data set specification is administrative by-product data generated by the ongoing daily operations of the PBS and allied schemes including the RPBS and SAS.

In broad terms, a new PBS data record is generated each time a prescription written by an authorised [PBS prescriber](#) for a medicinal product included in the Schedule of the PBS is dispensed by an approved supplier.

**Guide for use:**

The applicable co-payment amounts, i.e. the contribution paid by patients towards Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme/Repatriation Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme medicinal products, for the 2013-14 financial year are as follows:

**Table 1: Co-payment amounts for 2013-14**

<i>Date</i>	<i>General co-payment</i>	<i>Concessional co-payment</i>
1 January 2013 – 31 December 2013	\$36.10	\$5.90
1 January 2014 – 31 December 2014	\$36.90	\$6.00

The applicable Safety Net thresholds for the 2013-14 financial year are as follows:

**Table 2: Safety Net thresholds for 2013-14**

<i>Date</i>	<i>General patients</i>	<i>Concessional patients</i>
1 January 2013 – 31 December 2013	\$1,390.60	\$354.00
1 January 2014 – 31 December 2014	\$1,421.20	\$360.00

Under the general PBS, in 2014 a general patient would have paid a maximum over-the-counter price of \$36.90 for each prescribed PBS medicinal product, plus any applicable special patient contribution, brand premium or therapeutic group premium. If the total amount spent by the patient during the year reached the general Safety Net threshold of \$1,421.20, the maximum over-the-counter price paid for any additional item during the remainder of the year would be \$6.00, plus any applicable special patient contribution, brand premium or therapeutic group premium.

Similarly, in 2014 a concessional patient would have paid a maximum over-the-counter price of \$6.00 for each prescribed PBS medicinal product, plus any applicable special patient contribution, brand premium or therapeutic group premium. If the total amount spent by the patient during the year reached the concessional Safety Net threshold of \$360.00, any additional items during the remainder of the year would be supplied free of charge, plus any applicable special patient contribution, brand premium or therapeutic group premium.

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2013

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2014

**Source and reference attributes**

**Steward:** [Department of Health and Aged Care](#)

- Origin:** Department of Health 2015. Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme website. Department of Health, Canberra. Viewed 25 June 2015, <http://www.pbs.gov.au>
- Department of Health 2015. Repatriation Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme website. Department of Health, Canberra. Viewed 30 October 2015, <http://www.pbs.gov.au/browse/rpbs>
- Department of Health 2015. Stoma Assistance Scheme website. Department of Health, Canberra. Viewed 30 October 2015, <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/Stoma+Appliance+Scheme-3>
- Reference documents:** Office of Parliamentary Counsel, ComLaw website 2014. National Health Act 1953 (Cwth). Office of Parliamentary Counsel, Canberra. Viewed 22 September 2015, <https://www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/C2015C00081>
- Office of Parliamentary Counsel, ComLaw website 2014. National Health (Pharmaceutical Benefits) Regulations 1960 (Cwth). Office of Parliamentary Counsel, Canberra. Viewed 22 September 2015, <https://www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/F2015C00314>
- Office of Parliamentary Counsel, ComLaw website 2015. Repatriation Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, Instrument 2013, No. R43. Office of Parliamentary Counsel, Canberra. Viewed 30 October 2015, <https://www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/F2015C00298>

## Relational attributes

## Metadata items in this Data Set Specification

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
1	<a href="#">Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) prescription—PBS item prescribed, code NN[NNN]A</a>	Mandatory	1
<i>DSS specific information:</i>			
Variable name = ITM_CD			
2	<a href="#">Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) prescription—patient category, entitlement code AA</a>	Mandatory	1
<i>DSS specific information:</i>			
Variable name = PYMNT_CTGRY_CD			
3	<a href="#">Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) prescription—PBS form type, code AA</a>	Mandatory	1
<i>DSS specific information:</i>			
Variable name = FRM_TYP_CD			
4	<a href="#">Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) prescription—quantity of PBS item supplied, total number N[NNN]</a>	Mandatory	1
<i>DSS specific information:</i>			
Variable name = PBS_RGLTN24_ADJST_QTY			

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
5	<a href="#">Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) prescription—PBS benefit amount, total Australian currency N[NNNNN].NN</a>	Mandatory	1
	<b>DSS specific information:</b>		
	Variable name = BNFT_AMT		
6	<a href="#">Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) prescription—PBS patient contribution, total Australian currency N[NNNNN].NN</a>	Mandatory	1
	<b>DSS specific information:</b>		
	Variable name = PTNT_CNTRBTN_AMT		
7	<a href="#">Prescription—repeat prescription indicator, code X</a>	Mandatory	1
	<b>DSS specific information:</b>		
	Variable name = SRT_RPT_IND		
8	<a href="#">Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) prescription—Regulation 24 applicable indicator, yes/no code A</a>	Mandatory	1
	<b>DSS specific information:</b>		
	Variable name = RGLTN24_IND		
9	<a href="#">Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) prescription—patient payment category, code X</a>	Mandatory	1
	<b>DSS specific information:</b>		
	Variable name = PTNT_PYMNT_CTGRY_CD		
10	<a href="#">Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) prescription—type of drug prescribed, broad category code XX</a>	Mandatory	1
	<b>DSS specific information:</b>		
	Variable name = DRG_TYP_CD		

11 [Hospital—hospital identifier, identifier N\[NNNNNN\]A](#)

Mandatory 1

**DSS specific information:**

Variable name = HSPTL\_ID

In the context of the PBS, this data element represents the hospital provider number, i.e. a unique identifier allocated by the Department of Human Services upon the Department of Health's request on behalf of a declared hospital. The issuance of a provider number is directly linked to the hospital declaration by the Minister for Health (or the Minister's delegate), in that only a facility that has been declared as a hospital can be issued a hospital provider number.

In the context of PBS data, the first digit of this data item is always a zero, and the eighth character is an alphabetic check digit which can be validated according to the routine outlined below.

Using the hospital provider number '0926591Y' as an example, the following steps can be used to validate the check digit.

Step #1. The first digit of the hospital provider number is a zero and is not used in the check digit calculation so it can be discarded. The remaining digits are individually multiplied by their corresponding digit in the number 584216, with the products of each multiplication summed, as per the table below.

Digit position	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	
Example number	9	2	6	5	9	1	
Multiplied by	5	8	4	2	1	6	<b>Total</b>
Products	45	16	24	10	9	6	<b>110</b>

Step #2. The sum of the products (i.e. 110 from the table in Step #1 above) is divided by 11, i.e.  $110/11 = 10$ , with a remainder of zero (0). The remainder is used to derive the check digit from the following list of values:

Remainder	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Check digit	Y	X	W	T	L	K	J	H	F	B	A

Step #3. Using the remainder (0) from the division calculation described in Step #2 above, the check digit for the example hospital provider number is 'Y'.

In the context of the PBS, the hospital provider number is used to identify the hospital in those cases where a PBS prescription is written in a public hospital and filled in a community pharmacy.

Referred to within the PBS system as 'Hospital provider number', 'Hospital identifier' or 'Hospital ID'.

12 [Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme \(PBS\) prescription—specialty of prescriber, group code NN](#)

Mandatory 1

**DSS specific information:**

Variable name = MJR\_SPCLTY\_GRP\_CD

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
13	<a href="#">Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) prescription—pharmacy approval type, code X</a>  <i>DSS specific information:</i>  Variable name = PHRMCY_APPRVL_TYP_CD	Mandatory	1
14	<a href="#">Patient—Closing the Gap co-payment eligibility indicator, code AAA[NNA]</a>  <i>DSS specific information:</i>  Variable name = CTG_CD  Due to a lack of validation for this data item, values that do not strictly conform with the specified value domain are likely to be reported for this item and should generally be regarded as valid for analytical purposes. Examples of such values may include 'CTG', i.e. a code with no numeric count or check digit included, or variants such as 'CGT' and so on.	Mandatory	1
15	<a href="#">Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) prescription—PBS claim type, code A</a>  <i>DSS specific information:</i>  Variable name = PBS_CLM_LVL_CD	Mandatory	1
16	<a href="#">Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) prescription—prescriber type, code A</a>  <i>DSS specific information:</i>  Variable name = PRSCRBR_TYP_CD	Mandatory	1
17	<a href="#">Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) prescription—number of times previously supplied, total number N[N]</a>  <i>DSS specific information:</i>  Variable name = PRVS_SPPLY_NMBR	Mandatory	1
18	<a href="#">Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) prescription—number of authorised prescription repeats, total number N[N]</a>  <i>DSS specific information:</i>  Variable name = RPT_ORDR_NMBR	Mandatory	1
19	<a href="#">Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) prescription—record extract date, DDMMYYYY</a>  <i>DSS specific information:</i>  Variable name = EXTRCT_DT	Mandatory	1
20	<a href="#">Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) prescription—number of authorised medication supplies, total number N[N]</a>  <i>DSS specific information:</i>  Variable name = PRSCRPTN_CNT	Mandatory	1



Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
21	<a href="#">Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) prescription—patient entitlement status (derived), Commonwealth government assistance scheme code AX</a>  <i>DSS specific information:</i>  Variable name = PTNT_CTGRY_DRVD_CD	Mandatory	1
22	<a href="#">Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) prescription—pharmaceutical benefit entitlement source, code A</a>  <i>DSS specific information:</i>  Variable name = ENTTLMNT_SRC_CD	Mandatory	1
23	<a href="#">Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) prescription—eligibility card type, code AA</a>  <i>DSS specific information:</i>  Variable name = PBS_CRD_TYP_CD  In the context of the PBS information provided to the Department of Health by the Department of Human Services for the 2013-14 financial year, all data records contain Code 'MC' (Medicare), regardless of whether more than one type of eligibility card was presented by the PBS consumer.  In theory, this data item should contain either 'MC' for most prescriptions, i.e. those prescriptions where only a Medicare card was presented, or the code representing any other eligibility card presented along with the Medicare card. However, this is known to not be the case.	Mandatory	1
24	<a href="#">Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) prescription—therapeutic group, code N</a>  <i>DSS specific information:</i>  Variable name = THRPTC_GRP_CD	Mandatory	1
25	<a href="#">Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) prescription—bioequivalent allowed indicator, code A</a>  <i>DSS specific information:</i>  Variable name = BQVLNT_IND	Mandatory	1
26	<a href="#">Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) prescription—patient identifier, identifier N(9)</a>  <i>DSS specific information:</i>  Variable name = PAT_ID  This data element can be used to identify individual patients and may, in some use cases, need to be suppressed or de-identified.	Mandatory	1

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
27	<a href="#">Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) prescription—prescriber identifier, identifier N[N(19)]</a>	Mandatory	1
<b>DSS specific information:</b>			
Variable name = PRESC_ID			
In the context of PBS data, this data element describes the prescriber number of the provider who wrote the prescription for which a PBS benefit is paid.			
Prescriber numbers are allocated to providers authorised to prescribe medication under the PBS. These prescribers include medical practitioners, dental practitioners, optometrists, nurse practitioners and midwives. The data item is referred to within the PBS system as 'Prescriber ID'.			
This data element can be used to identify individual prescribers and may, in some use cases, need to be suppressed or de-identified.			
28	<a href="#">Pharmacy—pharmacy identifier, identifier XXNNNA</a>	Mandatory	1
<b>DSS specific information:</b>			
Variable name = PHCY_ID			
In the context of PBS data, this data element describes the approval number of the pharmacy that claimed for the supply of the PBS item and is referred to within the PBS system as 'Supplying pharmacy ID'.			
The sixth character is an alphabetic check digit.			
This data element can be used to identify individual pharmacies and may, in some use cases, need to be suppressed or de-identified.			
29	<a href="#">Pharmacy—Australian state/territory identifier, ACT-prioritised code AA[A]</a>	Mandatory	1
<b>DSS specific information:</b>			
Variable name = PHCY_STATE			
In the context of PBS data, this data element describes the location (physical address) of the dispensing pharmacy. It is referred to within the PBS system as 'Pharmacy state'.			
30	<a href="#">Person—Australian state/territory identifier, ACT-prioritised code AA[A]</a>	Mandatory	1
<b>DSS specific information:</b>			
Variable name = PTNT_STATE			
In the context of PBS data, this data element describes the place of usual residence of the patient or PBS consumer, and not the location of an establishment, e.g. the practice or postal address of the prescriber or the physical or postal address of the dispensing pharmacy.			
This data item is referred to within the PBS system as 'Patient state', and is derived from 'Patient postcode', i.e. it is derived from the Medicare record of the patient and is based on the most recent patient address reported to the Department of Human Services (DHS).			

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
31	<a href="#">Prescriber—Australian state/territory identifier, ACT-prioritised code AA[A]</a>  <i>DSS specific information:</i>  Variable name = PRESC_STATE  In the context of PBS data, this data element describes the location (physical address) of the prescriber, and is based on the postcode of the location at which the prescriber performed the majority of Medicare services for the most recent relevant quarter.	Mandatory	1
32	<a href="#">Pharmacy—geographic remoteness, PBS classification (ASGS-RA) X</a>  <i>DSS specific information:</i>  Variable name = PHCY_RA  In the context of PBS data, this data element describes the geographic remoteness of the dispensing pharmacy, and is based on the postcode of the pharmacy at which the prescription was dispensed.	Mandatory	1
33	<a href="#">Person—geographic remoteness, PBS classification (ASGS-RA) X</a>  <i>DSS specific information:</i>  Variable name = PTNT_RA  In the context of PBS data, this data element describes the geographic remoteness of the patient, and is based on the postcode of the most recent patient address details reported to the Department of Human Services (DHS).	Mandatory	1
34	<a href="#">Prescriber—geographic remoteness, PBS classification (ASGS-RA) X</a>  <i>DSS specific information:</i>  Variable name = PRESC_RA  In the context of PBS data, this data element describes the geographic remoteness of the prescriber, and is based on the postcode of the location at which the prescriber performed the majority of Medicare services for the most recent relevant quarter.	Mandatory	1
35	<a href="#">Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) prescription—date of supply, DDMMYYYY</a>  <i>DSS specific information:</i>  Variable name = SUPP_DATE	Mandatory	1
36	<a href="#">Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) prescription—date of prescribing, DDMMYYYY</a>  <i>DSS specific information:</i>  Variable name = PRESC_DATE	Mandatory	1

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
80	<a href="#">Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) prescription—specialty of prescriber, major specialty code NNNN</a>	Mandatory	1
	<p><b>DSS specific information:</b></p> <p>This data element is not part of the 2013-14 data extracted provided to the states and territories. It is a more detailed version of the 'Speciality group of prescriber' data element and is included here so it can be taken through the data governance process.</p>		
81	<a href="#">Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) prescription—specialty of prescriber, subspecialty code NNNNNN</a>	Mandatory	1
	<p><b>DSS specific information:</b></p> <p>This data element is not part of the 2013-14 data extracted provided to the states and territories. It is a more detailed version of the 'Speciality group of prescriber' data element and is included here so it can be taken through the data governance process.</p>		
98	<a href="#">Person—date of birth, DDMMYYYY</a>	Mandatory	1
	<p><b>DSS specific information:</b></p> <p>Variable name = PAT_DOB</p> <p>In the context of PBS data, this data element describes the date of birth of the patient and is referred to within the PBS system as 'Patient date of birth'.</p> <p>'Patient date of birth' is extracted from the Medicare record of the patient, as reported to the Department of Human Services (DHS).</p> <p>This data element can be used to identify individual patients and may, in some use cases, need to be suppressed or perturbed.</p>		
99	<a href="#">Person—sex, code A</a>	Mandatory	1
	<p><b>DSS specific information:</b></p> <p>Variable name = PAT_SEX</p> <p>In the context of PBS data, this data item is defined as being 'the gender of the consumer as held in the entitlement tables at the time the PBS claim was archived'.</p> <p>Strictly speaking, gender is a social/cultural concept rather than a biological (anatomical or chromosomal) concept, although for most people the two concepts are the same.</p>		