

# Medicines in a disaster

## Accessing medicines in a disaster – Fact sheet

Natural disasters, such as floods and fires, can make it difficult for you to access medicines. However, there are ways you can make sure you get the medication you need during an emergency.

### Get prepared

The best way to ensure you have access to your medications in a disaster is to plan in advance and be prepared for anything. You should have all your medications, scripts, medical care plans and other important information in a safe and accessible location ready to take with you in the event of an emergency.

### I don't have my prescription

In an emergency you can still get your [Pharmaceutical Benefit Scheme \(PBS\)](#) medicine without a prescription.

If you can get to your usual pharmacy, they will supply your medications depending on the situation. For instance, they may provide you with medicines for 3 days without prescription or contact your doctor for a verbal prescription.

You may have to pay for verbal prescriptions and the full cost of the medication for an emergency supply. The cost of a three-day emergency supply does not count towards your PBS Safety Net.

### I can't get to my usual pharmacy

If you can't get to your usual pharmacy, visit another community pharmacy if it is safe.

In an emergency situation where you are not able to reach a community pharmacy, your GP's prescription can be filled by a Queensland Health public hospital pharmacy. However, please be aware that hospitals may not stock the full range of medicines prescribed by your GP, as the needs of hospital and community patients are different.

### I can't access my money

First, try and organise emergency payment from [Centrelink](#) so that you are able to pay the legally required co-payment for the medicine. A co-payment is the price paid by the person for a prescription, the price can vary if the person is on a concession card.

In an urgent situation, you may be able to negotiate a credit arrangement with your pharmacy or public hospital pharmacy. If a pharmacy or a public hospital agrees to dispense medicines without collecting a co-payment, they will record the details and will ask you to pay any co-payments later.