

Queensland Community Pharmacy Pilots – Newsletter # 15

Dear colleagues,

Welcome to your regular update on the Queensland Community Pharmacy Pilots. This edition includes information about, pilot consultation fee indexation, issuing of repeats, and reviewing the Therapeutic Guidelines.

Consultation fee indexation

Consultation fees for pilot services have been determined based on the complexity and duration of the service being provided. Participating pharmacies and pharmacists are required to adhere to the fee schedule set by the Department of Health. Pilot consultation fees are indexed annually using the same methodology used to index Medicare Benefit Schedule items. The first indexation, at a rate of 3.5%, will apply to all pilot consultation fees from 24 April 2025.

The table below outlines the pilot consultation fees effective from 24 April 2025:

Consultation	Time	Cost
Brief consultation	<10 minutes	\$19.50
Standard consultation	Between 10 to 20 minutes	\$36.70
Long consultation	>20 minutes	\$70.50

Pharmacists may issue up to 12 months of repeats

Pharmacists may issue up to 12 months of repeats as part of delivering safe, high-quality community healthcare. When issuing repeats as part of a pilot service, pharmacists should consider patient value-for-money, ensuring sufficient supply to last until the next clinical review, and align quantities with those typically outlined by the PBS or manufacturer.

Reminder to review TG prior to prescribing

Pharmacists participating in the Pilot are authorised to prescribe a medicine mentioned within the specified section of the Therapeutic Guidelines listed in the Pharmacist EPA for that condition. The Therapeutic Guidelines are updated regularly. For example, the most recent update to the Antibiotic Guidelines includes complete revision of recommendations regarding antibiotic use for over 200 clinical topics including Travellers' diarrhoea, Otitis externa and Otitis media. Pharmacists should have processes in place to regularly review the Therapeutic Guidelines to ensure that they are prescribing in accordance the most up to date guidance.