Important information

Complete this declaration if you are taking or sending medicines out of Australia. You must include this declaration with the medicines being taken or sent out of Australia.

You may leave Australia carrying the following medicines:

a) non-prescription medicine (e.g. over-the-counter)

b) prescription medicine where no Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) subsidy has been paid or is payable for the medicine

c) prescription medicine for your personal use or for the person travelling with you (e.g. child).

It is your responsibility to show that the medicine being exported fits into one of the above categories. You will need to provide evidence to the Australian Customs Service that your medicine fits into one of these categories. If you are unable to obtain a letter from your doctor or pharmacist, this declaration may be sufficient.

Exporting medicines

An exporter under the National Health Act 1953 is a person who either leaves Australia taking drug like substances, or consigns for export an article containing such substances.

It is illegal to take or send PBS medicines overseas unless it is for the personal use of the exporter, or somebody travelling from Australia with the exporter.

The impact of illegal export of PBS medicines on Australia

Under the PBS, the Australian Government subsidises the cost of around 2500 prescription medicines. In most cases patients pay only a small contribution, sometimes nothing at all, towards the full cost of a PBS medicine.

Exporting PBS subsidised medicines to people outside Australia leads to a significant financial loss to both taxpayers and the Australian Government. It is also dangerous for people to take prescription medicine that has not been prescribed for them.

Offences

Under Section 103 of the National Health Act 1953 the maximum penalty for a person using, disposing or otherwise dealing with a PBS medicine that has been prescribed for or supplied to them, in a way other than which it was meant, is two years imprisonment and/or a $5000 fine.

It is also an offence to export more than the designated quantity of a PBS medicine unless that quantity was supplied by an approved supplier for the medical or dental treatment of the exporter, or the exporter has some other cause for possessing or consigning for export that amount of the medicine.

The maximum penalty for a person exporting above the designated quantity of a PBS medicine is two years imprisonment.

The designated quantity is calculated using a formula set out in the National Health Act 1953.

What is the correct way to take or send PBS subsidised medicine overseas?

You must keep all medicines in original packaging. In the case of prescription medicine, the label on the packaging must show where the medicine was dispensed, for whom the medicine was prescribed and how much was paid for the medicine.

You should also contact the embassy or high commission of the destination country to ensure the medicine is legally able to enter that country.

Giving false or misleading information is a serious offence (Criminal Code Act 1955, Section 137.1).

Assistance

If you need assistance completing this form call 1800 500 147 (call charges may apply). For more information about exporting medicines go to www.medicareaustralia.gov.au > For Individuals and Families > Migrants and travellers > Travelling overseas > Taking and sending PBS medicines

Print in BLOCK LETTERS

Tick where applicable ☑
Your details
1 Full name

2 Address

3 Phone number
(       )
Mobile phone number
(       )
4 Email

Medicine being exported
5 The medicine I am taking/sending out of Australia is:
   Tick all that apply.
   Non prescription medicine
   Prescription medicine that has not been subsidised by PBS
   PBS subsidised medicine for my personal use
   PBS subsidised medicine for a person travelling in my company
6 Full name of the person for whom the medicine was prescribed for (if applicable)

7 Names of medicine (including strength, quantity, daily dose)

Exportation details
8 I am:
   Taking PBS medicine overseas  Go to 9
   Sending PBS medicine overseas  Go to 10
9 Passport number

10 Full name of person PBS medicine is being sent to

11 Address

12 Your relationship to the recipient of medication

13 Reason for sending PBS medicines overseas

Doctor's details
14 Full name of the doctor who prescribed the prescription medicine

15 Address

Pharmacist's details
16 Full name of pharmacist and/or pharmacy that supplied the prescription medicine

17 Address

Declaration
18 I declare that:
   • the information on this form is correct.

Exporter's signature

Date
/ / 

Privacy note
The information on this declaration is collected for the purpose of detecting and investigating breaches of the National Health Act 1953. We will not disclose this information to a third party unless authorised or required by law.