

14 March 2024

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Tēnā koe Brendon

Your request for official information, reference: HNZ00038383

Thank you for your email which was transferred to us from the Ministry of Health on 25 February 2024, asking Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora for the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- *Just what is subsidised by Pharmac and its predecessors. Like when you go to the doctor and get prescribed medicine, and you take the script to the pharmacy.*

I would like to know what the prescription charges per item were for each year between 1990 and 2023.

Response

Information about the Pharmaceutical Schedule is available online here:

<https://pharmac.govt.nz/pharmaceutical-schedule>

This website provides information about all medicines funded in New Zealand.

Table one below provides information about legislation for co-payments in New Zealand.

Table one: Historical information regarding changes in laws for co-payment amounts.

Period	Issue / Event
April 2004	Implementation of \$3 maximum co-payments for enrolled Access funded PHO patients, and enrolled PHO patients aged 6-17
July 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 and September 2008	Implementation of \$3 maximum co-payments for enrolled PHO patients. Roll out was staggered over five years by age in the following order: 65+, 18-24, 45-64, 25-44, all remaining groups.
January 2013	Co-payments increased from \$3 prescription charge to \$5 per item up to a maximum of 20 items
July 2023	Co-payments for prescriptions from an approved provider reduced to \$0.

Table two below provides information about the total amount which was paid as patient contributions towards all publicly funded dispensings in New Zealand between 1996 and 2023. This information comes from Health NZ's Pharmaceutical Collection. Your request for data from 1990 to 1995 is declined under section 18(g) of the Act as this data is not held by Health NZ.

Please note:

- The data includes pharmaceuticals dispensed where the pharmacist made a claim between 1996 and 2023.

- The year is derived from the date a claim was made by the pharmacist.
- Administrative and bulk dispensings data has been excluded.
- The Pharmaceutical Collection only counts publicly funded, community dispensed pharmaceuticals and Pharmaceutical Cancer Treatments (PCT); It does not count non-PCT hospital dispensings.
- The data excludes records where there was no NHI number recorded against the dispensing.
- Although we've reviewed the provisional data presented here, it has not undergone full quality assurance, and this data could have unexpected errors that may be picked up through the rigorous data quality checks publication datasets undergo. As a result, published data may differ from the provisional data presented here. Published data should be considered the most accurate source and used where possible.
- Data is provisional and has not undergone full quality assurance.

Table two: Total patient contribution towards all publicly funded medicines dispensings by year between 1996 and 2023

YEAR	TOTAL PATIENT CONTRIBUTIONS
1996	\$90,404,201.21
1997	\$88,461,879.84
1998	\$79,674,510.62
1999	\$84,016,765.37
2000	\$79,934,415.11
2001	\$79,198,678.68
2002	\$82,104,972.80
2003	\$86,773,405.66
2004	\$85,087,075.90
2005	\$81,043,674.74
2006	\$76,635,783.86
2007	\$70,569,629.58
2008	\$70,416,903.41
2009	\$71,096,680.21
2010	\$74,603,536.62
2011	\$78,139,633.88
2012	\$79,002,705.10
2013	\$130,313,615.40
2014	\$132,311,586.91
2015	\$132,252,697.06
2016	\$131,718,053.12
2017	\$135,299,129.15
2018	\$138,510,777.28
2019	\$142,820,224.83
2020	\$143,911,451.84
2021	\$149,368,857.25
2022	\$156,376,818.50
2023	\$99,526,862.67

How to get in touch

If you have any questions, you can contact us at hnzOIA@health.govt.nz.

If you are not happy with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman. Information about how to do this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by phoning 0800 802 602.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public, Health NZ may proactively release a copy of this response on our website. All requester data, including your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Gaynor Bradfield

**Group Manager Business Support,
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