






Mechanics of prescribing in general practice

The transition from prescribing in the hospital environment to the general practice setting is a challenging one for new GP registrars. The Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) is an Australian Government program that subsidises medicines for more affordable access. The rules, regulations and restrictions of the PBS can be bewildering. This topic should be discussed at orientation, or very early in the term. See the [Rational prescribing teaching plan](#) for guidance on teaching prescribing competencies.

<p>TEACHING AND LEARNING AREAS</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PBS and RPBS, and how they work • How to write a prescription • Costs, restricted benefits, authority scripts, private scripts, Regulation 49, safety net • Prescribing S8's and drugs of addiction, state guidelines, prescription shopping information service, real time prescription monitoring • Doctor's bag • Adverse drug reaction (ADR) reporting • PBS for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients • Computer software – allergies, medication lists, etc.
<p>PRE- SESSION ACTIVITIES</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PBS eLearning program – a good introduction for new GP registrars • Prescribing in private practice – Health professional education resource
<p>TEACHING TIPS AND TRAPS</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always take the time to revise the patient medication list • Don't bend the rules on Authority prescriptions • Check the settings for the medication alerts on the computer software • Ask the registrar to hand write a script on an old-fashioned prescription pad and discuss legal requirement • Encourage your registrar to register with the prescription shopping information service
<p>RESOURCES</p> 	<p>Read</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PBS Prescribing Medicines – Information for PBS Prescribers • PBS – General FAQ's • RPBS prescribing • RACGP Prescribing drugs of dependence in general practice resource
<p>FOLLOW UP/ EXTENSION ACTIVITIES</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spend an hour with the local pharmacist to observe the prescription dispensing process