



Medicine export declaration

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:

- non-prescription medicine (e.g. over-the-counter)
- prescription medicine where no Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) subsidy has been paid or is payable for the medicine
- 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

