

Medication payments while waiting for a Health Care Card

A Health Care Card (concession card) issued by Centrelink can reduce the cost of prescription medicines. You can check if your child is eligible by calling Centrelink on 132717 or visit:

www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/health-care-card.

Centrelink will assist you with the application process and your hospital social worker can help you complete it.

- If your child is eligible for a Health Care Card, it's important to submit an application to Centrelink as soon as possible after they are diagnosed. Centrelink will backdate the Health Care Card to the date the application is submitted, not the date of diagnosis. It can take up to six months for the Health Care Card to be issued. Any medications dispensed prior to the initial request will not be eligible for a reduced price.
- While waiting for the Health Care Card, you will have to pay the full 'general co-payment' price of your child's medication (This is the cost for patients not eligible for a Health Care Card).
- Once you receive your Health Care Card, you will be entitled to a refund of the price difference between the 'general co-payment' price and the 'concession co-payment' price (for Health Care Card eligible patients) for all medications paid for in full beyond the concession card start date. To get this, present your Health Care Card to the Level 2 Pharmacy Department at the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital (LCCH). Please allow up to five working days for this process to be completed.
- **To be eligible for the refund, all invoices must be paid in full at the general co-payment price.** It is advised that you pay each invoice as the medication is collected from pharmacy, to avoid having a significant lump sum payment when you receive your card.
- Items identified as 'NON-PBS' (Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme) on your invoice are subsidised by the hospital. These can be refunded at the LCCH Pharmacy Department on Level 2.
- Items identified as 'PBS' (Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme) on your invoice are subsidised by the federal government. These will be refunded from Medicare once you complete the required paperwork at LCCH, and submit it to Medicare.

Ask our staff at the LCCH Level 2 Pharmacy if you have any further questions regarding this process.

