How do I pay?

Payments can be made at the hospital cashier as you leave the hospital, or paid later at Service Tasmania, Australia Post, online or by phone using the invoice provided to you with your medicines.

You will need to bring to hospital:

- Your most recent Medicare card.
- Your current concession card such as your Pension card, Health Care card, or your Department of Veterans’ Affairs card.
- Your current PBS Safety Net card (if you have one).

This assists us to charge you the correct co-payment for your medicines.

- Your current medicines including over-the-counter and herbal medicines.

This will help the pharmacist to review the medicines that you were taking before hospital. Do not take these medicines whilst in hospital unless advised by hospital staff.

Please note:

You will not be able to fill any prescriptions your local doctor has given you at the hospital pharmacy.

For ongoing supply of most medicines, you need to see your own local doctor.

Pharmaceutical Reform is being introduced to the Launceston General, Mersey Community, North West Regional and the Royal Hobart hospitals in 2011.

For more information on Pharmaceutical Reform in Tasmania:

Internet www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/pharmreform
Email pharmaceuticalreform@dhhs.tas.gov.au
Phone (03) 6233 2990

For more information on PBS & the Safety Net, contact Medicare Australia:

FREE CALL 1800 020 613
Hearing Impaired 1800 552 152
Translating and Interpreting Service 131 450
Email pbs@medicareaustralia.gov.au
Website www.medicareaustralia.gov.au

Public hospitals in Tasmania are making changes to the way your medicines are managed.

The changes are designed to help you to manage your medicines more safely, and make it easier to get the medicines you need.
The patient co-payment:
The patient co-payment is set by the Australian Government. In 2011 these are:
• No more than $34.20* per item for general patients.
• $5.60* per item for concession card or DVA card holders.
You will not have to pay for the medicines you receive while you are an inpatient of the hospital.

Making it safer – expert advice
Pharmaceutical Reform means that extra pharmacists will be working in public hospitals. They will work with your hospital doctors and nurses to better manage your medicines.

When you are in hospital a pharmacist will:
• Ask about the medicines that you took before you came to hospital, and ensure that they are included on your hospital drug chart where appropriate.
• Regularly review the medicines on your drug chart.
• Help your hospital doctor to choose the best medicine to treat your condition.
• Explain to you why changes were made to your medicines.
• Work out which medicines you need supplied when you are ready to leave hospital.
• Provide you with information about your medicines so that you understand them better – what they are for, how often to take them, and any possible side effects.
• Discuss ways that you can get the most benefit out of your medicines.
• Provide information to your local doctor and/or pharmacist about the medicines you need to keep taking after you leave hospital.

Making it easier – better access

The old system:
Previously, public hospitals in Tasmania would supply only 3–5 days of medicines when you left hospital. This meant that you would often need to visit your local doctor for another prescription soon after leaving hospital. You would then need to visit your local pharmacy to get your prescription filled.
The amount of medicine supplied with an outpatient prescription also varied depending on what medicine you needed.

The new system:
From 28 February 2011, Tasmanian public hospitals will start using the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS). This means you will receive up to a month’s supply of medicines when you leave hospital (or attend as an outpatient). This will give you more time to visit your local doctor to arrange further prescriptions.

The new system – contributing to the cost of your medicines
Because a larger amount of medicine is being supplied by the hospital pharmacy, it is necessary for patients to contribute to the cost of these medicines. This cost is the same as you would pay at your local pharmacy for items on the PBS*. This is known as the patient co-payment. The co-payment applies to outpatient and discharge medicines.

The patient co-payment:
The patient co-payment is set by the Australian Government. In 2011 these are:
• No more than $34.20* per item for general patients.
• $5.60* per item for concession card or DVA card holders.

You will not have to pay for the medicines you receive while you are an inpatient of the hospital.

The PBS Safety Net is a safeguard for those who take a lot of medicines.
Co-payments made for medicines supplied by the hospital pharmacy count towards your PBS Safety Net.
Once the PBS Safety Net threshold is reached, your PBS medicines will be cheaper or free for the rest of the year.
You are responsible for keeping track of your co-payments. Ask for a record of your hospital co-payments to take to your local pharmacy.

*An additional charge may apply for some medicine brands that are supplied through your local pharmacy.