

## **Fact Sheet – Multiple Medicines**

From 1 October 2016, some non-concessional patients currently taking a number of medicines for their chronic diseases will see a noticeable decrease in their costs.

The case studies below show possible scenarios of combination medicines and their associated savings:

### **Patient 1**

A non-concessional patient with osteoporosis, high blood pressure and glaucoma who is currently taking:

- alendronate 70 mg + colecalciferol 140 microgram tablet and calcium (as carbonate) 500 mg tablet (as per dosing instructions) for osteoporosis;
- irbesartan 300 mg + hydrochlorothiazide 12.5 mg tablet daily for high blood pressure; and
- latanoprost (eye drops 50 mg per mL form) 1 drop daily for glaucoma;

will save up to **\$31.72** per month on scripts, which equates to a yearly reduction of **\$380.64**.

### **Patient 2**

A non-concessional patient with breast cancer, generalised anxiety disorder, chronic pain and drug-induced constipation who is currently taking:

- anastrozole 1mg tablet daily for breast cancer;
- duloxetine 30mg tablet daily for malignancy associated generalised anxiety disorder;
- fentanyl transdermal patches (50 microgram/hour patch which is replaced every 72 hours) for bone pain; and
- macrogol 3350 17g sachets once daily for opioid induced constipation;

will save up to **\$7.23** per month on scripts, which equates to a yearly reduction of **\$86.76**.

### **Patient 3**

A non-concessional patient with cardiovascular disease who is currently taking:

- rosuvastatin 20mg tablet daily for high cholesterol; and
- fosinopril with hydrochlorothiazide 20mg/12.5mg tablet daily for high blood pressure;

will save up to **\$13.87** per month on scripts, which equates to a yearly reduction of **\$166.44**.

### **Patient 4**

A non-concessional patient with diabetes, osteoporosis, high blood pressure and gastric reflux who is currently taking:

- metformin 500mg tablet twice daily for type 2 diabetes;
- alendronate 70 mg + colecalciferol 140 microgram tablet (as per dosing instructions) for osteoporosis;
- enalapril with hydrochlorothiazide 20 mg/6 mg tablet daily for high blood pressure; and
- pantoprazole 40mg tablet daily for gastric reflux;

will save up to **\$34.19** per month on scripts, which equates to a yearly reduction of **\$410.28**.