# Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) section 100 In Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) medicines

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PBS subsidised In Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) medicines are prescribed, dispensed and accessed in alignment with other PBS subsidised medicines. This arrangement ensures flexibility for patients.

### Information for patients

Patients must visit their specialist medical practitioner for assessment for IVF medicines. If the patient meets eligibility requirements, and the specialist medical practitioner finds it appropriate, they will be provided with a PBS prescription for IVF medicine to use during their treatment. Patient eligibility criteria is available on the[PBS website](https://www.pbs.gov.au/browse/section100-if).

Patients can access their IVF medicines, through either a community pharmacy, private or public hospital pharmacy or an approved medical practitioner (‘dispensing doctor’).

Similar to other PBS medicines, patients pay a PBS co-payment for each dispensing of IVF medicine on a PBS prescription from their medical practitioner. PBS co-payment amounts for General and Concessional patients are available on the [PBS Fees website](https://www.pbs.gov.au/info/healthpro/explanatory-notes/front/fee). The PBS patient co-payment contributestowards a family’s [PBS Safety Net](https://www.pbs.gov.au/info/healthpro/explanatory-notes/section1/Section_1_5_Explanatory_Notes).

### Information for prescribers

Specialist medical practitioners that prescribe IVF medicines for eligible patients must be employed or affiliated with an IVF clinic that is accredited by the Fertility Society of Australia’s Reproductive Technology Advisory Committee (RTAC) to provide assisted reproductive technology services.

Prescribers should include the RTAC accreditation number for the practice/clinic on each prescription form they write for IVF medicines. This can be accommodated by including the RTAC number in the prescriber’s address block if using pre-printed PBS stationery.

Prescribers may be contacted by pharmacies to confirm the RTAC accreditation number.

The quantities given in the PBS Schedule are maximum quantities permitted to be prescribed under usual clinical circumstances. Prescribers should only prescribe the quantity required for the patient, not the default maximum quantity if it is not required.

If a patient requires a quantity of an item beyond the PBS listed Maximum Quantity, prescribers may request prior approval to prescribe the additional quantity from Services Australia. Repeats are not permitted for PBS IVF medicines. A patient should only be provided a quantity of an IVF medicine suitable for a single course of treatment.

Under the PBS, a prescriber may specify the brand of medicine to be supplied by a pharmacist by endorsing the prescription that brand substitution is not permitted. A checkbox on PBS pre-printed stationery is available for this purpose.

### Information for pharmacists

All PBS approved pharmacies and dispensing doctors may dispense PBS Authority prescriptions for IVF medicines whether they originate from a hospital clinic or a private specialist.

Hospital authorities and community pharmacists will be remunerated for dispensing IVF medicines at the rate applying on the date of supply, for valid PBS prescriptions. The dispensed price is calculated using the approved ex-manufacturer price plus the applicable mark-up and dispensing fee. Usual PBS co-payment amounts will apply.

The RTAC of the Fertility Society of Australia accredits IVF clinics to provide assisted reproductive services. As part of this accreditation, they are issued with a RTAC accreditation number. Pharmacists must include the RTAC accreditation number in their PBS Online claims when claiming reimbursement for a supply for a PBS IVF item. If the number is not included on the prescription, pharmacists should liaise with the prescriber or the patient’s IVF clinic to obtain the number. Without the RTAC accreditation number, claims for PBS IVF medicines will not be processed. Further information on the RTAC accreditation can be found on the [Fertility Society of Australia and New Zealand's website](https://www.fertilitysociety.com.au/art-regulation/rtac/).