

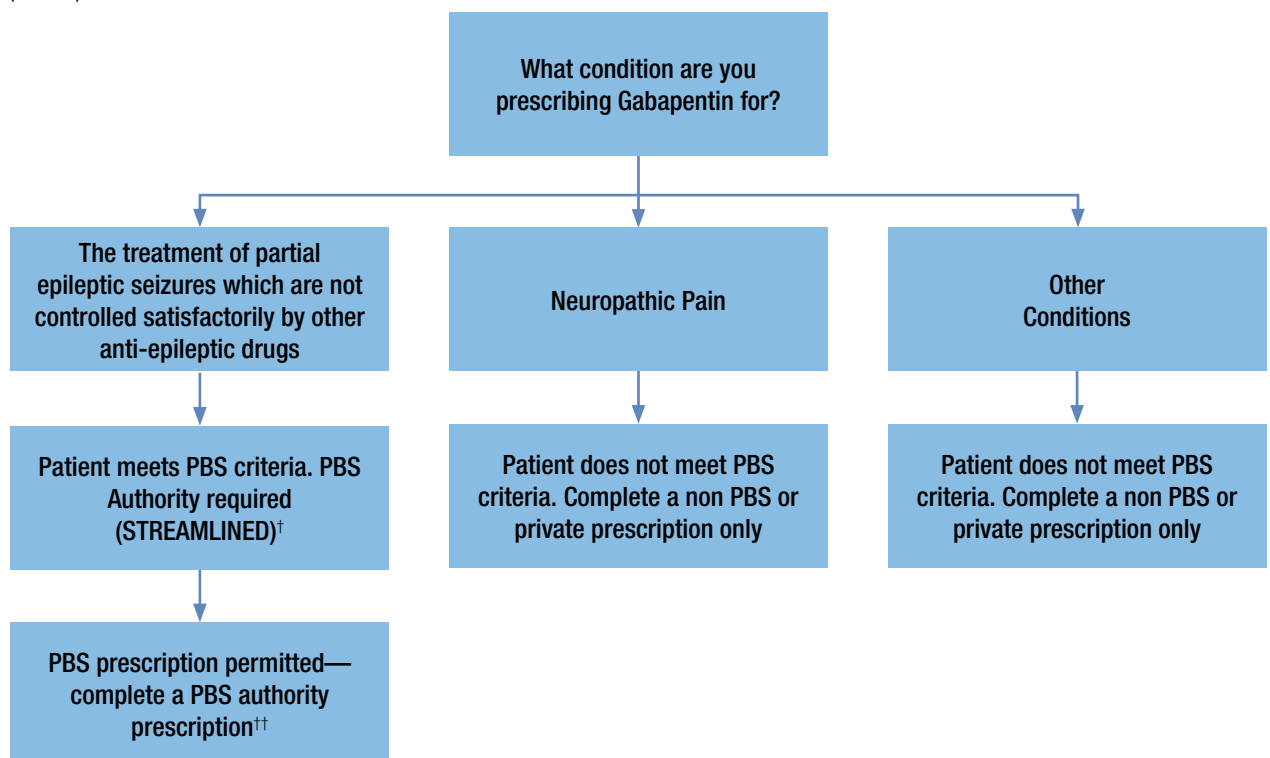


Quick reference guide

Prescribing Gabapentin under the PBS

Gabapentin is subsidised under the PBS for the treatment of partial epileptic seizures that are not controlled satisfactorily by other anti-epileptic drugs. It is not subsidised under the PBS for the first-line treatment of epilepsy or for the treatment of neuropathic pain of any cause.

If you want to prescribe Gabapentin outside of the criteria listed in the Pharmaceutical Benefits Schedule, you must write a non PBS prescription.



RPBS patients only—Gabapentin is available under the Repatriation Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (RPBS) as an authority required medicine for the treatment of refractory neuropathic pain not controlled by other drugs. Gabapentin requires prior phone or written approval from the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA), which can be arranged by calling DVA authority prescription approvals on **1800 552 580****.

† The prescription must include the Authority required (STREAMLINED) code corresponding to the PBS restriction that your patient meets.

†† For increased quantity and/or number of repeats, you must obtain prior approval from Medicare Australia by calling the PBS authority prescription approvals on **1800 888 333****

It is strongly recommended that you refer to the latest Pharmaceutical Benefits Schedule for full information about this medicine.

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Prescribing Gabapentin under the PBS

Important information

Medicare Australia recognises that you have the responsibility for choosing your patient's treatment. However, the PBS restriction criteria as stated in the Pharmaceutical Benefits Schedule is not discretionary. Matching the patient's condition with the PBS restriction is a mandatory requirement.

If your patient does not meet the PBS restriction criteria and you still want to prescribe the medicine, you must write a non PBS or private prescription. Endorse the prescription as 'non PBS' to make your intentions clear to the dispensing pharmacist. You can help your patient understand why their prescription is 'non PBS' by attaching a non PBS prescription sticky note. The sticky notes are supplied free of charge.

To download an order form go to www.medicareaustralia.gov.au > **For health professionals** > **PBS** > **PBS Education** > **PBS resources**

For more information

Call General PBS and stationery enquiries **132 290***
 PBS authority prescription approvals **1800 888 333****
 RPBS authority prescription approvals **1800 552 580****

Online www.pbs.gov.au

www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/education
to access other education resources.

* Call charges apply.

** Call charges apply from mobile and pay phones only.