

# Rural Pharmacy Maintenance Allowance (RPMA) Program

## Frequently asked questions & answers

### Q1 Does my pharmacy qualify for RPMA?

To qualify, pharmacies should be approved under section 90 of the National Health Act 1953, with the premises being open for business for a minimum of 20 hours over a minimum of 4 days per week for a minimum of 48 weeks per year, and with a pharmacist in attendance. The pharmacy should be located in one of the Pharmacy ARIA categories of Accessible Group A (2), Accessible Group B (3), Moderately Accessible (4), Remote (5) or Very Remote (6) qualify for RPMA payments. To determine if the pharmacy location is eligible go to <http://www.gisca.adelaide.edu.au/> or contact Medicare Australia on 08 8274 9641.

### Q2 How much will I be eligible for?

The RPMA is calculated on an annual basis effective from 1 July each year, with payments made on a monthly basis, as an amount equal to one twelfth of the annual allowance for that pharmacy. There are no part month payments. The allowance payable for an approved pharmacy will be calculated according to the payment matrix below for the relevant allowance year, considering:

- the PBS and RPBS claimable processed prescriptions paid by Medicare Australia during the assessment year; and
- the Pharmacy ARIA category allocated to the location of the pharmacy.

### RPMA payment matrix July 2006 – June 2007

Eligible PhARIA Category	2 Accessible (Group A)	3 Accessible (Group B)	4 Moderately Accessible	5 Remote	6 Very Remote
Prescription Volume Range	\$ per annum	\$ per annum	\$ per annum	\$ per annum	\$ per annum
0 – 30747	10,935	13,669	20,777	31,166	41,555
> 30747 – 38434	9,842	12,302	18,590	27,885	37,180
> 38434 – 46121	8,748	10,935	16,403	24,605	32,806
> 46121 – 53807	7,655	9,568	14,216	21,324	28,432
> 53807 – 61494*	6,561	8,202	12,029	18,043	24,058
> 61494 – 69181	5,468	6,835	9,842	14,763	19,684
> 69181 – 76868	4,374	5,468	7,655	11,482	15,310
> 76868	3,281	4,101	5,468	8,202	10,935

Median Script Volume  
30747 per annum

**Q3 Are all partners required to sign the application and RPMA Certification Statement forms?**

Yes.

**Q4 When should the RPMA Certification Statement be submitted to ensure continuation of payment?**

A completed RPMA Certification Statement should be submitted to Medicare Australia between 1 April and 14 May each year for reassessment. This form must be completed by the proprietor/s of the pharmacy.

**Q5 Does Medicare Australia send out reminder letters before the RPMA Certification Statement is due?**

Yes. A reminder letter with a RPMA Certification Statement will be sent before 1 May. If there is no response a second reminder and statement will be sent before 1 June. If no RPMA Certification Statement is received by 30 June the pharmacist will need to reapply for the allowance.

**Q6 Where do I get the RPMA Certification Statement from?**

RPMA Certification Statements are available from the Medicare Australia website, [www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/providers/incentives\\_allowances/pharmacy\\_agreement/rural\\_pharmacy\\_allowance/forms\\_apps.htm](http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/providers/incentives_allowances/pharmacy_agreement/rural_pharmacy_allowance/forms_apps.htm) and also by calling Medicare Australia 08 8274 9641.

**Q7 How do I get paid?**

Payments are made monthly, in arrears into the bank account used for pharmacy prescription claims.

**Q8 How do I contact Medicare Australia for assistance with the RPMA program?**

The Community Pharmacy Agreement Officer can be contacted by telephone on 08 8274 9641, by email at [sa.guild.govt.prog@medicareaustralia.gov.au](mailto:sa.guild.govt.prog@medicareaustralia.gov.au), or by writing to The Community Pharmacy Agreement Officer, Medicare Australia, GPO Box 9826, Adelaide SA 5001