



Medicine export declaration

(complete this declaration if you are taking or sending medicine out of Australia)

I (the exporter)

of (full address)

Street number Street name Suburb State Post Code Country

declare the medicine (detailed below) that I am taking/sending (delete as appropriate) out of Australia is:
(tick appropriate box/es)

- medicine that is not prescription medicine; or
- prescription medicine that has not been subsidised by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS); or
- PBS subsidised medicine for my personal use outside Australia, or that of a person travelling from Australia in my company.

Name of medicine (including strength) (eg. Prozac – Fluoxetine Hydrochloride, 20mg)	Quantity (eg. 1 box of 28 capsules)	Daily dose (eg. 1 capsule)	Person for whom the medicine was prescribed (if applicable)

Full name and address of the doctor or dentist who prescribed the prescription medicine:

Name

Address

Full name and address of the supplier (pharmacist/pharmacy) of the prescription medicine:

Name

Address

If taking or sending PBS medicine please provide the following information:

Passport number Passport country of issue

Flight number Destination

Expected length of stay outside Australia

If sending medicine please provide the following details of the person receiving the medicine:

Name

Address

Relationship to exporter

Signature of exporter Date

Please include this declaration with the article(s) being taken or sent out of Australia

Warning - Giving false or misleading information is a serious offence (*Criminal Code Act 1995*, Section 137.1).

Privacy - The information provided by you on this declaration is collected for the purpose of detecting and investigating breaches of the *National Health Act 1953*. By law, if the Australian Customs Service suspects a breach of the *National Health Act 1953*, it must forward this declaration to Medicare Australia.

Section 99ZI of the *National Health Act 1953* states:

A person must not leave Australia carrying, or consign for export an article containing, medicine unless it:

- a) is not prescription medicine; or
- b) is prescription medicine but no Commonwealth benefit has been paid or is payable in respect of that medicine; or
- c) is prescription medicine but for the personal use of the person or of another person travelling in the company of the person.

To show Australian Customs Service that your medicine fits into one of these categories, you are required to provide documentary evidence to that effect. If you cannot obtain a letter from your doctor or pharmacist, this declaration may be sufficient.

Information on exporting medicine

It is illegal to take or send PBS medicine overseas unless it is for the personal use of the exporter, or somebody travelling from Australia with the exporter.

An exporter under the *National Health Act 1953* is a person who either leaves Australia taking drug like substances, or consigns for export an article containing such substances.

The Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme

Under the PBS, the Australian Government subsidises the cost of around 2500 prescription medicines. In most cases patients pay only a small contribution, sometimes nothing at all, towards the full cost of a PBS medicine. Medicare Australia is the Government agency that administers the PBS.

What impact does the illegal export of PBS medicine have on Australia?

Exporting PBS subsidised medicine to people outside Australia leads to a significant financial loss to both the Australian Government and community. It is also dangerous for people to take prescription medicine that has not been prescribed for them.

How does this illegal activity occur?

Most commonly, the illegal export of PBS medicine happens by people sending them overseas by the post or other means, and by people taking them in their luggage through airports. Australian Customs Service uses x-ray equipment to detect prohibited exports.

Offences

Under section 103 of the *National Health Act 1953* the maximum penalty for a person using, disposing or otherwise dealing with a PBS medicine that has been prescribed for or supplied to them, in a way other than which it was meant, is two years imprisonment and/or a \$A5000 fine.

Offences (cont)

It is also an offence to export more than the designated quantity of a PBS medicine unless that quantity was supplied by an approved supplier for the medical or dental treatment of the exporter, or the exporter has some other reasonable excuse for possessing or consigning for export that amount of the medicine.

The maximum penalty for a person exporting above the designated quantity of a PBS medicine is two years imprisonment. The designated quantity is calculated using a formula set out in the Act.

What is the correct way to take/send PBS subsidised medicine overseas?

It is not illegal to take or send out of Australia 'over-the-counter' items, prescription medicine that has not been subsidised by the PBS, or PBS medicine that is for the personal use of the exporter or someone travelling with the exporter.

It is the exporter's responsibility to show that the medicine being exported fits into one of these categories. This declaration can be completed and taken or sent with the medicine for this purpose. It should be noted though, that if taking or sending prescription medicine, a letter from the doctor or pharmacist may be more acceptable both to Australian and foreign Customs.

All medicine should be kept in its original packaging. In the case of prescription medicine, the label on the packaging shows where the medicine was dispensed, for whom the medicine was prescribed, and how much was paid for the medicine.

Exporters should also contact the embassy or high commission of the destination country to ensure the medicine is legally able to enter that country.

More information

For more information on taking or sending PBS medicine overseas, call Medicare Australia on 1800 500 147 or visit www.medicareaustralia.gov.au.