

# THE LENGTH OF YOUR PRESCRIPTION COULD BE CHANGING

The New Zealand Government is extending the maximum prescription length from 3 months to 12 months.

**When:** From 1 February 2026.

**Who:** This change **may** apply to some people with stable, long-term health conditions.

The change will **not** affect how controlled drugs are prescribed and dispensed.

**How:** **Your prescriber** will determine whether it's clinically safe and appropriate to prescribe your medicines for up to a 12-month period. Talk to your GP or prescriber about what's best for you.

**Your pharmacist** will be required, by law, to only supply a maximum of up to 3 months' worth of your medicines at any one time, even if your prescription covers a longer period.

**As a patient**, you will need to collect any additional repeat supplies of your medicines from the same pharmacy.

**The Government** will continue to require people who pay a prescription co-payment (e.g. \$5) to pay this fee when they collect the first supply of each of their prescription medicines.

**Find out more about the changes here:**



The Royal New Zealand  
College of General Practitioners  
Te Whare Tohu Rata o Aotearoa