



# Fiji Free Medicine Program

One of the FijiFirst Government's top priorities is to provide quality healthcare with easy access to price controlled medicines, including for non-communicable disease, free of charge to all Fijians who earn less than \$20,000 a year. Accordingly, the 2015 Budget allocated \$8.0 million for the Free Medicine Program.

As of 1 January 2015, all eligible Fijians will be able to access price controlled medicines prescribed by a licensed medical practitioner free of charge from any Government Hospital Pharmacy / Dispensary and / or selected retail pharmacies.

## Who is eligible?

Individuals who can benefit from this program are:

- ◆ Adults with an annual income of less than \$20,000; and
- ◆ Individuals less than 18 years old whose combined parental income is less than \$20,000.

## Who is not eligible

All Fijians who earn an annual income of more than \$20,000 are not eligible for this Program.

## Who does not have to register

Individuals who already have a TIN number or Social Welfare number benefitting from the following initiatives:

- ◆ Poverty Benefit Scheme
- ◆ Care and Protection Allowance; and
- ◆ Social Pension Scheme

are not required to register as they would already be included in the Program.

## Registration Process

1. Fijians who hold a Tax Identification Number (TIN) and satisfy the eligibility criteria do not need to register for the Program.
2. Fijians who do not hold a TIN and satisfy the eligibility criteria can go to any Fiji Revenue & Customs Authority (FRCA) office to register for a TIN and be automatically registered for the Free Medicines Program.
3. Fijians who do not hold a TIN and satisfy the eligibility criteria are able to obtain the *Free Medicine Program Registration Form* from the Ministry of Health website (<http://www.health.gov.fj/?p=4102>) or any Government hospital/health facility administration office or pharmacy. The forms need to be filled out as instructed and return to any Government hospital/health facility administration office or pharmacy.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q: What if I earned less than \$20,000 and my wife also earned less than \$20,000, will my children or dependents get free medicine too apart from us?**

**A:** Currently the policy eligibility states that if the combined salary of the parents is less than \$20,000 then the children are eligible to receive free medicines. For example, if you one of you earns \$12,000 and the other \$7,000; your combined salary per year is \$19,000 which is under \$20,000, therefore your children are entitled to access the Free Medicine Program.

**Q: Will all medicines be provided free?**

**A:** No. There are 72 medicines that will be provided free in this program which includes certain medicines for non-communicable diseases like diabetes, blood pressure, asthma etc. It is also important to note that only certain brands of the 72 medicine will be supplied free which is mostly the ones that are similar to the ones that are supplied by the government hospitals. Currently, hospitals provide free medicines but through this program you will be able to access these 72 medicines for free from private pharmacy shops also.

**Q: If I have a prescription from the Government health facility and I am eligible for the free medicine, can I take my prescription to any of the 50 private pharmacy shops in town to get my medicine?**

**A:** Yes you can take your prescription to one of the 50 private pharmacy shops participating in the program and you can obtain your medicine for free only if it is listed under the program.

**Q: If I have a prescription from the private GP and I am eligible for the free medicine, can I take my prescription to any of the Government hospitals and health centre pharmacies to get my medicine?**

**A:** Yes you can take your prescription and valid ID (if no ID then you must fill in the declaration form) to any Government pharmacy to obtain your medicine.

*\* Please note, at the time of printing only 48 medicines out of the 72 will be available, the rest of medicines are in the procurement phase and will be available at a later date with the public notified accordingly.*

**For further Enquiries contact:**

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