



National Prescribing Service Limited

MEDIA RELEASE

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Avoid further costs by taking your medicine as prescribed

People facing financial hardship are urged to speak to their doctor or pharmacist if they are concerned about the cost of their medicines, as suddenly stopping a prescribed medicine can have dangerous consequences.

New research from the Menzies Centre for Health Policy has shown a direct correlation between financial stress and consumers failing to collect prescriptions and skipping doses of medication, which can result in further health complications.

“Reports that people are not taking their medicine because they cannot afford it are extremely concerning,” NPS CEO, Dr Lynn Weekes said.

“Many people are recalculating their household budgets. When you are determining where cutbacks need to be made, I urge you not to put your health at risk by eliminating necessary medicines or missing doses to make your supply last longer.”

The medicine regimen that has been prescribed for you has been designed to ensure you receive the maximum health benefit. Changing that regimen without consulting your doctor may compromise your health.

“What may seem like a simple cost saving by skipping doses or not having a repeat script filled can result in long term lifestyle disruption,” Dr Weekes said.

“If you are having trouble with the cost of your medicines, speak to your doctor or pharmacist about ways of reducing your spending on medicines without compromising your health. This may include having your medicines reviewed to see whether you need the medicines you have been prescribed or utilising the PBS safety net scheme”

“The consequences of suddenly stopping a medicine could be far more expensive than a trip to the doctor,” Dr Weekes said.

For further information about your medicines call the [NPS Medicines Line](#) on 1300 888 763 (Mon-Fri 9am-6pm EST) and speak to a pharmacist for the cost of a local call (mobiles may cost more).

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Media enquiries to Katie Butt, Media Adviser, 0419 618 365 or email kbutt@nps.org.au.

The National Prescribing Service Limited (NPS) is an independent, non-profit organisation for Quality Use of Medicines funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing.