

**AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

HEALTH INSURANCE ACT 1973

**Health Insurance (Medicare Benefits Payable in Respect of Professional Services –
Council of Australian Governments’ Improving Access to Primary Care in Rural and
Remote Areas – COAG s19(2) Exemptions Initiative – Northern Territory Direction
2022**

I, Nigel Murray, Assistant Secretary, MBS Policy and Specialist Services Branch,
Medical Benefits Division, Health Resourcing Group, delegate for the Minister for Health,
acting under subsection 19(2) of the *Health Insurance Act 1973*, hereby:

- (1) REVOKE the Direction made under subsection 19(2) of the Act that was granted on 16 December 2021, that Medicare benefits shall be payable in respect of professional services provided by health services in Northern Territory that are a part of the Council of Australian Governments’ *Improving Access to Primary Care in Rural and Remote Areas – COAG s19(2) Exemptions Initiative*, as described in the Memorandum of Understanding between the Australian Government and Northern Territory dated 13 December 2016; and
- (2) DIRECT that Medicare Benefits shall be payable in respect of
 - (a) A professional service (as defined in Section 3 of the *Health Insurance Act 1973*) which has been agreed to be provided under the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Department of Health (ABN: 24 004 196 909) and the Northern Territory (ABN: 84 085 734 992) 5 May 2022 as part of the Council of Australian Governments’ *Improving Access to Primary Care in Rural and Remote Areas – COAG s19(2) Exemptions Initiative* relating to primary care services for which:
 - (i) items specified in Schedule A of this Direction; and of the general medical services table (means the table prescribed under subsection 4(1) of the *Health Insurance Act 1973*), diagnostic imaging services table (means the table prescribed under subsection 4AA(1) of the *Health Insurance Act 1973*) and pathology services table (means the table prescribed under subsection 4A(1) of the *Health Insurance Act 1973*) relates; and
 - (b) where the profession service is provided to:
 - (i) an eligible person (as defined in Section 3 of the *Health Insurance Act 1973*); and
 - (ii) a patient who is not part of an episode of hospital treatment (as defined in Section 121-5 of the *Private Health Insurance Act 2007*); and
 - (c) The professional services referred to in a clause in (2)(a):
 - (i) is provided at an approved Modified Monash Model 5-7 area (as defined in Section 7.1.1 of the general medical services table) practice location specified in Schedule B; and
 - i. is a professional non-referred service provided by a state remunerated medical practitioner, participating midwife, or participating nurse practitioner; or
 - ii. is a professional referred service provided by a state remunerated allied health and dental health practitioner; and

DECLARED that this Direction shall have effect from the date of signature until 30 July 2025 inclusive unless earlier revoked.

Date this 29th day of June 2022

Nigel Murray
Assistant Secretary
MBS Policy and Specialist Services Branch
Medical Benefits Division
Health Resourcing Group
Department of Health

SCHEDULE A

MEDICARE BENEFITS SCHEDULE ITEMS AS APPROVED PRACTICE LOCATIONS AS AGREED UNDER THE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENTS' IMPROVING ACCESS TO PRIMARY CARE IN RURAL AND REMOTE AREAS – COAG S19(2) EXEMPTIONS INITIATIVE – NORTHERN TERRITORY

For services listed in the below tables, all provisions of the *Health Insurance Act 1973* (the Act) and regulations made under the Act, and the *National Health Act 1953* and regulations made under the *National Health Act 1953*, relating to medical services, professional services or items apply.

General Medical Services Table

Group	Group Name	Subgroup	Subgroup Name
A1	General practitioner attendances to which no other item applies		
A2	Other non-referred attendances to which no other item applies		
A5	Prolonged attendances to which no other item applies		
A6	Group Therapy		
A7	Acupuncture and non-specialist practitioner items		
A9	Contact lenses – attendances		
A10	Optometrical attendances		
A11	Urgent attendance after hours		
A14	Health assessments		
A15	GP management plans, team care arrangements, multidisciplinary care plans		
A17	Domiciliary and residential management plans		
A18	General Practitioner attendance associated with PIP incentive payments to which no other item applies		
A19	Other non-referred attendances associated with PIP incentive payments to which no other item applies		
A20	General Practitioner mental health treatment		
A22	General Practitioner after-hours attendances to which no other item applies		

Group	Group Name	Subgroup	Subgroup Name
A23	Other non-referred after-hours attendances to which no other item applies		
A27	Pregnancy support counselling		
A30	Medical practitioner (including General Practitioner, specialist or consultant physician) telehealth attendances*		
A35	Services for patients in Residential Aged Care Facilities		
A40	Telehealth and phone services	1	General practice telehealth services
		2	General practice phone services
		3	Focussed psychological strategies telehealth services
		10	Focussed psychological strategies phone services
		11	Health assessments for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People - telehealth services
		13	GP management plans, team care arrangements and multidisciplinary care plans via telehealth attendance
		15	GP pregnancy support counselling telehealth services
		16	GP pregnancy support counselling phone services
		17	GP, Specialist and Consultant Physician Autism Service Telehealth Service
		19	GP mental health treatment plan telehealth services
		20	GP mental health treatment plan phone services
		21	GP Eating Disorder Treatment and Management Plan telehealth services
		27	GP - Eating Disorder Focussed Psychological Strategies telehealth services
		28	GP - Eating Disorder Focussed Psychological Strategies phone services
		29	GP and Other Medical Practitioner urgent after-hours service in unsociable hours telehealth services

Group	Group Name	Subgroup	Subgroup Name
		39	GP and Other Medical Practitioner - urgent after hours service in unsociable hours phone services
		40	GP Blood borne viruses, sexual or reproductive health consultation telehealth service
A41	Additional focussed psychological strategies		
A42	Mental health planning for care recipients of a residential aged care facility		
A43	Care recipient of a Residential Aged Care Facility planning and contribution items		
A45	Nicotine and Smoking Cessation Counselling		
M1	Management of bulk-billed services		
M3	Allied Health services		
M6	Psychological therapy services		
M7	Focussed psychological strategies		
M8	Pregnancy support counselling		
M9	Allied Health group services		
M10	Autism, pervasive developmental disorder and disability services		
M11	Allied Health services for Indigenous Australians who have had a health check		
M12	Services provided by a Practice Nurse or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner on behalf of a medical practitioner		
M14	Nurse Practitioners		
M15	Diagnostic audiology services		
M16	Eating Disorder services		
M18	Allied health telehealth services	1	Psychological therapies telehealth services
		2	Psychologist focussed psychological strategies telehealth services
		3	Occupational therapist focussed psychological strategies telehealth services
		4	Social worker focussed psychological strategies

Group	Group Name	Subgroup	Subgroup Name
			telehealth services
		5	Nurse practitioner telehealth services
		6	Psychological therapies phone services
		7	Psychologist focussed psychological strategies phone service
		8	Occupational therapist focussed psychological strategies phone services
		9	Social worker focussed psychological strategies phone services
		10	Nurse practitioner phone services
		11	General allied health telehealth services
		12	General allied health phone services
		13	Pregnancy support counselling telehealth services
		14	Pregnancy support counselling phone services
		15	Autism, pervasive developmental disorder and disability telehealth services
		16	Autism, pervasive developmental disorder and disability phone services
		17	Telehealth attendance to person of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent
		18	Phone attendance to person of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent
		23	COVID-19 Follow up service provided by a practice nurse or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner – Telehealth Services
		25	COVID-19 Allied health, group dietetics telehealth services
		26	COVID-19 Allied health, group dietetics phone
M25	Additional psychological therapy services		

Group	Group Name	Subgroup	Subgroup Name
M26	Additional focussed psychological strategies (allied mental health)		
M27	Initial psychological therapy services		
M28	Initial focussed psychological strategies (allied mental health)		
M29	Additional allied health services		
M30	Allied health services for Indigenous Australians in RACF		
M31	Allied health group services in RACF		
D1	Miscellaneous diagnostic procedures and investigations	1	Neurology
		2	Ophthalmology
		5	Vascular
		7	Gastroenterology and colorectal
		8	Genito/urinary physiological investigations
D2	Nuclear medicine (non-imaging)		
T1	Miscellaneous therapeutic procedures	6	Gastroenterology

* Note: Claims under any item Group A30 in the General Medical Services Table may only be exempt from Subsection 19(2) of the *HIA 1973* when the services are claimed by a General Practitioner.

General Medical Services Table – permitted items

Group	Group Name	Items	Item overview
A29	Early intervention services for children with autism, pervasive developmental disorder or disability	139	Professional attendance by a general practitioner for assessment, diagnosis and preparation of a treatment and management plan for a patient with an eligible disability.
A36	Eating disorder services	90250-90257, 90264, 90265, 90271-90282	Eating disorder services provided by General Practitioners or Medical Practitioners

A40	COVID-19 services	92170, 92171, 92176, 92177	General Practitioner and Other Medical Practitioner items
A44	General Practice attendance for assessing patient suitability for a COVID-19 vaccine	93625, 93627, 93635, 93637, 93645, 93647, 93654, 93656, 93661, 93666, 10660, 10661	General Practice Attendance for Assessing Patient Suitability for a COVID-19 Vaccine
D1	Miscellaneous diagnostic procedures and investigations	11300-11318, 11330, 11333-11339, 11503-11507, 11512, 11707, 12000-12004, 12012-12024, 12200, 12306-12326	Non-referred services only
M13	Midwifery services	82100-82115, 82130-82152	Midwifery items
T1	Miscellaneous therapeutic procedures	13105-13110	Haemodialysis provided by a registered nurse, Aboriginal health worker or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner in a very remote location.
T4	Obstetrics	16400, 16406-16500, 16502-16591, 91850, 91855, 91851, 91856, 91852, 91857, 91853, 91858, 91855	Antenatal and postnatal attendances
T8	Surgical operations	30001-30006, 30010, 30023, 30026-30055, 30061-30072, 30187, 30189, 30192-30219, 47015, 47042, 47057, 47069, 47301, 47348, 47354, 47361, 47387, 47423, 47444, 47453, 47462, 47466, 47471, 47543, 47561, 47579, 47595, 47663, 47735, 47904-47918	Minor surgical procedures
O1	Consultations	51700- 51703,	Dental practitioner attendances

		54001-54004	
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Diagnostic Imaging Services Table

Group	Group Name
I1	Ultrasound
I3	Diagnostic radiology
I6	Management of bulk-billed services

Pathology Services Table

Group	Group Name
P9	Simple basic pathology tests
P12	Management of bulk-billed services
P13	Bulk-billing incentive

SCHEDULE B

APPROVED PRACTICE LOCATIONS AS AGREED UNDER THE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENTS' IMPROVING ACCESS TO PRIMARY CARE IN RURAL AND REMOTE AREAS – COAG S19(2) EXEMPTIONS INITIATIVE – NORTHERN TERRITORY

Approved locations:

Location	Practice Name	Street Address	Mailing Address
Adelaide River	Adelaide River Health Centre	21 Becker Street Adelaide River NT 0846	C/- Adelaide River PO NT 0846
Batchelor	Batchelor Health Clinic	27 Pinaroo Crescent Batchelor NT 0845	C/- Batchelor Post Office NT 0845
Jabiru	Jabiru Community Health Centre	Lot 2021 Jabiru NT 0886	PO Box 221 JABIRU NT 0886
Katherine	Katherine Hospital	Gorge Road Katherine NT 0852	PMB 73 KATHERINE NT 0852
Nhulunbuy	Gove District Hospital	Matthew Flinders Way Nhulunbuy NT 0880	PO Box 421 NHULUNBUY NT 0881
Tennant Creek	Tennant Creek Hospital	45 Schmidt Street Tennant Creek NT 0860	PO Box 346 TENNANT CREEK NT 0861
Yulara	Yulara Community Health Centre	233 Yulara Drive Yulara NT 0872	233 Yulara Drive YULARA NT 0872