**AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT**

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGED CARE**

***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 – Queensland) Direction 2023**

I, Louise Riley, Acting First Assistant Secretary, Medical Benefits Division, Health Resourcing Group, delegate for the Minister for Health and Aged Care, 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   
   29 June 2022, that Medicare benefits shall be payable in respect of professional services provided by health services in Queensland 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 Queensland dated 9 June 2022; and
2. DIRECT that Medicare Benefits shall be payable in respect of
3. A professional service (as defined in Section 3 of the *Health Insurance Act 1973*)which has been agreed to be providedunder the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Department of Health (ABN: 83 605 426 759) and the Queensland Department of Health (ABN: 75 818 456 675) dated 9 June 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:
   1. 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
4. where the professional service is provided to:
   1. an eligible person (as defined in Section 3 of the *Health Insurance Act 1973*); and
   2. 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
5. The professional services referred to in clause (2)(a):
   1. 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
      1. is a professional non-referred service provided by a state remunerated medical practitioner, participating midwife, or participating nurse practitioner; or
      2. is a professional referred service provided by a state remunerated allied health and dental health practitioner; and

DECLARED that this Direction commences on 1 January 2024 and ceases to have effect at the end of 30 July 2025 unless earlier revoked.

Date this 14 day of December 2023

Louise Riley

Acting First Assistant Secretary

Medicare Benefits and Digital Health Division

Health Resourcing Group

Department of Health and Aged Care

**SCHEDULE A**

**MEDICARE BENEFITS SCHEDULE ITEMS At 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 – queensland**

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 | | |
| 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 |
| 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 | | |
| 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 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 | | |
| 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, 54001-54004 | Dental practitioner attendances |

***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 - Queensland**

Approved locations:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Location** | **Practice Name** | **Legal Name** | **Street Address** | **Mailing Address** |
| Alpha  (Outreach service of Barcaldine) | Alpha Hospital and Multipurpose Health Service | Central West Hospital and Health Service | 1 Burns Street  Alpha QLD 4724 | 1 Burns Street  ALPHA QLD 4724 |
| Aramac (Outreach service of Barcaldine) | Aramac Primary Health Clinic | Central West Hospital and Health Service | 2 Lodge Street  Aramac QLD 4726 | 2 Lodge Street  ARAMAC QLD 4726 |
| Babinda | Babinda Hospital Multipurpose Health Service | Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service | 128 Munro Street, Babinda, QLD 4861 | PO Box 160  BABINDA QLD 4861 |
| Barcaldine | Barcaldine Hospital Multi-Purpose Health Service | Central West Hospital and Health Service | 25 Oak Street, Barcaldine, QLD 4725 | 25 Oak Street  BARCALDINE QLD 4725 |
| Biggenden | Biggenden Multipurpose Health Service | Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service | 57 Alice Street, Biggenden, QLD 4621 | 57 Alice St  BIGGENDEN QLD 4621 |
| Blackall | Blackall Hospital | Central West Hospital and Health Service | 189 Landsborough Highway, Blackall, QLD 4472 | PO Box 131  BLACKALL QLD 4472 |
| Blackwater | Blackwater Hospital Multipurpose Health Service | Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service | 41 McKenzie Street, Blackwater, Qld 4717 | PO Box 47  BLACKWATER QLD 4717 |
| Boulia | Boulia Primary Health Centre | Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service | 49 Wills Street, Boulia, QLD 4829 | PO Box 24  BOULIA QLD 4829 |
| Capella | Capella Outpatients Clinic | Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service | 5 Slider Street, Capella, QLD 4723 | 5 Slider Street  CAPELLA QLD 4723 |
| Cardwell | Cardwell Community Health Centre | Townsville Hospital and Health Service | Victoria Street, Cardwell, QLD 4819 | PO Box 391  CARDWELL QLD 4819 |
| Cecil Plains (Outreach service of Millmerran) | Millmerran Multipurpose Health Service – Outreach Primary Clinic (Cecil Plains) | Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service | Co located at Anglicare, 24 Geraghty Street, Cecil Plains, QLD 4407 | Co located at Anglicare  24 Geraghty Street  CECIL PLAINS QLD 4407 |
| Childers | Childers Multipurpose Health Service | Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service | 44 Broadhurst Street, Childers, QLD 4660 | PO Box 62  CHILDERS QLD 4660 |
| Chillagoe | Chillagoe Primary Health Centre | Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service | 21 Hospital Avenue, Chillagoe, QLD 4871 | PO Box 4  CHILLAGOE QLD 4871 |
| Collinsville | Collinsville Multipurpose Health Service | Mackay Hospital and Health Service | 81-91 Garrick Street, Collinsville, QLD 4804 | PO Box 56  COLLINSVILLE QLD 4808 |
| Cow Bay (Outreach service of Mossman) | Cow Bay Primary Health Centre | Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service | 69 Tea Tree Road  Diwan QLD 4873 | PMB 3  CAPE TRIBULATION QLD 4873 |
| Dimbulah | Dimbulah Primary Health Centre | Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service | 1-5 Stephen Street, Dimbulah, QLD 4872 | PO Box 148  DIMBULAH QLD 4872 |
| Dirranbandi | Dirranbandi Multipurpose Health Service | South West Hospital and Health Service | Corner of Jane and Crothers Streets, Dirranbandi, QLD 4486 | PO Box 20  DIRRANBANDI QLD 4486 |
| Eidsvold | Eidsvold Multipurpose Health Service | Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service | Cracow Rd, Eidsvold, QLD 4627 | PO Box 40  EIDSVOLD QLD 4627 |
| Gayndah | Gayndah Hospital | Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service | 69 Warton Street, Gayndah, QLD 4625 | PO Box 41  GAYNDAH QLD 4625 |
| Gin Gin | Gin Gin Hospital | Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service | 5 King Street, Gin Gin, QLD 4671 | PO Box 14  GIN GIN QLD 4671 |
| Hughenden | Hughenden Multipurpose Health Service | Townsville Hospital and Health Service | Richmond Hill Drive, Hughenden, QLD 4821 | PO Box 228  HUGHENDEN QLD 4821 |
| Inglewood | Inglewood Multipurpose Health Service | Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service | Cunningham Highway, Inglewood, QLD 4387 | PO Box 42  INGLEWOOD QLD 4387 |
| Injune | Injune Multipurpose Health Service | South West Hospital and Health Service | Fifth Avenue, Injune, QLD 4454 | PO Box 35  INJUNE QLD 4454 |
| Isisford | Isisford Primary Health Centre | Central West Hospital and Health Service | St Helena Street, Isisford, QLD 4731 | St Helena Street  ISISFORD QLD 4731 |
| Jandowae | Jandowae Health Services | Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service | Jandowae Hospital, 13 Dalby Street, Jandowae, QLD 4410 | PO Box 75  JANDOWAE QLD 4410 |
| Jericho (Outreach service of Barcaldine) | Jericho Health Clinic | Central West Hospital and Health Service | 19 Pasteur Street  Jericho QLD 4728 | 19 Pasteur Street  JERICHO QLD 4728 |
| Jundah | Jundah Primary Health Centre | Central West Hospital and Health Service | 1 Hospital Road, Jundah, QLD 4736 | PO Box 26  JUNDAH QLD 4736 |
| Longreach | Longreach Hospital | Central West Hospital and Health Service | Corner Jabiru and Plover Streets, Longreach, QLD 4730 | Corner Jabiru and Plover Streets  LONGREACH QLD 4730 |
| Maleny | Maleny Soldiers Memorial Hospital | Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service | 17 Bean St, Maleny, QLD 4552 | 17 Bean Street MALENY QLD 4552 |
| Miles | Miles Health Service | Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service | 5-11 Colamba Street, Miles, QLD 4415 | PO Box 187  MILES QLD 4415 |
| Millmerran | Millmerran Multipurpose Health Service | Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service | 50 Commens Street, Millmerran, QLD 4357 | 50 Commens Street  MILLMERRAN QLD 4357 |
| Mitchell | Mitchell Multipurpose Health Service | South West Hospital and Health Service | 95 Ann Street, Mitchell, QLD 4465 | 95 Ann Street  MITCHELL QLD 4465 |
| Monto | Monto Hospital | Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service | 35 Flinders Street, Monto, QLD 4630 | PO Box 220  MONTO QLD 4630 |
| Mossman | Mossman Multipurpose Health Service | Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service | 9 Hospital Street, Mossman, QLD 4873 | 9 Hospital Street  MOSSMAN QLD 4873 |
| Moura | Moura Multipurpose Health Service | Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service | 14 Nott Street, Moura, QLD 4718 | 14 Nott Street  MOURA QLD 4718 |
| Mundubbera | Mundubbera Health Service | Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service | 96 Leichardt Street, Mundubbera QLD 4626 | PO Box 35  MUNDUBBERA QLD 4626 |
| Mungindi | Mungindi Multi-Purpose Health Service | South West Hospital and Health Service | 90 Barwon St, Mungindi, QLD 2406 | 90 Barwon St  MUNGINDI QLD 2406 |
| Murgon | Murgon Health Service | Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service | Coronation Drive, Murgon, QLD 4605 | Coronation Drive  MURGON QLD 4605 |
| Muttaburra (Outreach service of Barcaldine) | Muttaburra Primary Health Care Centre | Central West Hospital and Health Service | Edkins Street  Muttaburra QLD 4732 | Edkins Street  MUTTABURRA QLD 4732 |
| Nanango | Nanango Health Service | Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service | 135 Brisbane Street, Nanango, QLD 4615 | PO Box 60  NANANGO QLD 4615 |
| Oakey | Oakey Health Services – Oakey Hospital | Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service | Cnr Beale and Fitzpatrick Streets, Oakey, QLD 4401 | Cnr Beale and Fitzpatrick Streets  OAKEY QLD 4401 |
| Proserpine | Proserpine Hospital and Community Health Centre | Mackay Hospital and Health Service | 26-32 Taylor Street, Proserpine, QLD 4800 | PO Box 229  PROSERPINE QLD 4800 |
| Quilpie | Quilpie Multipurpose Health Service | South West Hospital and Health Service | 30 Gyrica Street, Quilpie, QLD 4480 | PO Box 27  QUILPIE QLD 4480 |
| Richmond | Richmond Multipurpose Health Service | Townsville Hospital and Health Service | Gallagher Drive, Richmond, QLD 4822 | PO Box 24  RICHMOND QLD 4822 |
| Sapphire | Gemfields Outpatient Clinic | Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service | 984 Rubyvale Road, Sapphire, QLD 4702 | PO Box 342  SAPPHIRE QLD 4702 |
| Springsure | Springsure Multipurpose Health Service | Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service | 21 Woodbine Street, Springsure, QLD 4722 | PO Box 14  SPRINGSURE QLD 4722 |
| Surat | Surat Hospital Multipurpose Health Service | South West Hospital and Health Service | 2 Ivan St, Surat, QLD 4417 | PO Box 2  SURAT QLD 4417 |
| Tambo | Tambo Primary Health Care Centre | Central West Hospital and Health Service | Garden Street, Tambo, QLD 4478 | Garden Street  TAMBO QLD 4478 |
| Tara | Tara Hospital | Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service | 15 Bilton Street, Tara, QLD 4421 | 15 Bilton Street  TARA QLD 4421 |
| Taroom | Taroom Hospital | Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service | Taroom Hospital, 14 Miller Street, Taroom QLD 4420 | PO Box 358  TAROOM QLD 4420 |
| Texas | Texas Multipurpose Health Service | Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service | Mingoola Road, Texas, QLD 4385 | PO Box 91  TEXAS QLD 4385 |
| Tully | Tully Hospital | Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service | 17 Bryant Street, Tully, QLD 4854 | PO Box 489  TULLY QLD 4854 |
| Wallumbilla | Wallumbilla Community Clinic | South West Hospital and Health Service | Stakeyard Road, Wallumbilla, QLD 4428 | PO Box 21  WALLUMBILLA QLD 4428 |
| Windorah | Windorah Primary Health Centre | Central West Hospital and Health Service | 25 Cecil Street, Windorah, QLD 4481 | 25 Cecil Street  WINDORAH QLD 4481 |
| Winton | Winton Multipurpose Health Service | Central West Hospital and Health Service | 70 Oondooroo Street, Winton, QLD 4735 | PO Box 295  WINTON QLD 4735 |