**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 – Victoria) Direction (No.1) 2025**

I, Nigel Murray, Assistant Secretary, MBS Policy and Specialist Programs Branch, Medical Benefits and Digital Health 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. REPEAL *the 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 – Victoria) Direction 2024*; 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 and Aged Care (ABN: 83 605 426 759) and the Victorian Department of Health (ABN: 74 410 330 756) dated 10 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 profession 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 service referred to in paragraph (1)(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
	2. is either:
		1. a professional non-referred service provided by a state remunerated medical practitioner, participating midwife, or participating nurse practitioner; or
		2. a professional referred service provided by a state remunerated allied health and dental health practitioner.

DECLARED that this Direction commences on 11 March 2025 and ceases to have effect at the end of 30 June 2025 unless earlier revoked.

Note, a number of expressions used in this direction are defined in the below instruments:

* *Health Insurance Act 1973*: the meaning of dental practitioner, participating midwife, participating nurse practitioner, and professional service; and
* *Health Insurance (General Medical Services Table) Regulations 2021*: the meaning of prescribed medical practitioner.
* *Health Insurance (Section 3C General Medical Services – Allied Health Services) Determination 2024*: the meaning of allied health professional.

Date: 6 March 2025

Nigel Murray

Assistant Secretary

MBS Policy and Specialist Programs Branch

Medical 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 – Victoria**

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  |
| A10 | Optometricl services provided by an optometrist |
| A11 | Urgent attendance after hours |
| A14 | Health assessments |
| A15 | GP management plans, team care arrangements and multidisciplinary care plans and case conferences | 1 | GP management plans, team care arrangements and multidisciplinary care plans |
| A17 | Domiciliary and residential medication management reviews |
| A20 | Mental health care |
| 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 |
| A35 | Non-referred attendance at a residential aged care facility |
| A40 | Telehealth and phone attendance 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 Service |
| 13 | GP management plans, team care arrangements and multidisciplinary care plans via telehealth attendance  |
| 15 | GP Pregnancy Support Counselling - Telehealth Service |
| 16 | GP Pregnancy Support Counselling - Phone Service |
| 19 | GP Mental Health Treatment Plan - Telehealth Service |
| 20 | GP Mental Health Treatment Plan - Phone Service |
| 21 | GP Eating Disorder Treatment and Management Plan - Telehealth Service |
| 27 | Eating Disorder Psychological Treatment Services -Telehealth Service |
| 28 | Eating Disorder Psychological Treatment Strategies - Phone Service |
| 29 | GP and Other Medical Practitioner - Urgent After-Hours Service in Unsociable Hours - Telehealth Service |
| 39 | GP Blood Borne Viruses, Sexual or Reproductive Health Consultation – Telehealth Service |
| 40 | GP Blood Borne Viruses, Sexual or Reproductive Health Consultation – Phone Service |
| M1 | Management of bulk-billed services | 1 | Management of General Bulk billed Services |
| 2 | General support service |
| 3 | Patients enrolled in MyMedicare |
| M3 | Allied health services |
| M6 | Psychological Therapy Services |
| M7 | Focussed Psychological Strategies (Allied Mental Health) |
| M8 | Pregnancy support counselling |
| M9 | Allied health group services |
| M10 | Complex neurodevelopmental disorder and disability services |
| M11 | Allied health services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people  |
| M12 | Services provided by a Practice Nurse or Aboriginal health worker or an 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 and phone 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 | Complex neurodevelopmental disorder and disability telehealth services |
| 16 | Complex neurodevelopmental 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 | Follow up service provided by a practice nurse or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner – Telehealth Services  |
| 25 | Allied health, group dietetics telehealth services  |
| 26 | Allied health, group dietetics phone services  |
| T1 | Miscellaneous therapeutic procedures | 6 | Gastroenterology |

***General Medical Services Table – permitted items***

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Group** | **Group Name** | **Items** | **Item overview**  |
| A15 | GP management plans, team care arrangements and multidisciplinary care plans | 735, 739, 743, 747-758, 930-945 | Case conferences |
| A29 | Attendance services for complex neurodevelopmental 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 | Telehealth and phone attendance services | 92142, 92170, 92171, 92176, 92177 | General Practitioner and Prescribed Medical Practitioner items |
| A44 | General Practice attendance for assessing patient suitability for a COVID-19 vaccine | 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, 11505, 11506, 11602-11615, 11707, 11729, 11730, 12001-12004, 12012, 12017, 12200, 12306, 12312, 12315, 12320-12322, 12325, 12326 | Non-referred services only |
| D2 | Nuclear medicine (non-imaging) | 12500, 12524, 12527 | Nuclear Medicine (non-imaging) |
| M13 | Midwifery services | 82100-82115, 82130-82140 | Midwifery items |
| T1 | Miscellaneous therapeutic procedures | 13105, 14206 | Haemodialysis provided by a registered nurse, Aboriginal health worker or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner in a very remote location.Hormone or living tissues implantation by cannula |
| T4 | Obstetrics | 16400, 16406-16500, 16502-16514, 16530, 16590, 16591, 91850-91858  | Antenatal and postnatal attendances |
| T8 | Surgical operations | 30003, 30006, 30023, 30026-30055, 30061-30072, 30107, 30192-30207, 30216, 30219, 31356, 32072, 32147, 35503, 41500, 47015, 47042, 47057, 47069, 47301, 47348, 47354, 47361, 47387, 47423, 47444, 47453, 47462, 47466, 47471, 47543, 47561, 47579, 47595, 47663, 47735, 47904, 47915, 47916, 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 – Victoria**

Approved locations and outreach services:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Location** | **Practice Name** | **Legal Name** | **Street Address** | **Mailing Address** |
| Alexandra | Alexandra District Hospital | Alexandra District Health | 12 Cooper Street Alexandra VIC 3714 | PO Box 21, Alexandra VIC 3714 |
| Clunes | Central Highlands Rural Health – Clunes Health | Central Highlands Rural Health  | 69 Service Street Clunes VIC 3370 | PO Box 465Daylesford VIC 3460 |
| Marysville (Outreach Service of Alexandra) | Community Centre, Marysville | Alexandra District Health | 31 Falls Road Marysville VIC 3779 | 31 Falls Road, Marysville VIC 3779 |
| Trentham | Central HighlandsRural Health –Trentham Health | Central Highlands Rural Health  | 22–24 Victoria Street Trentham VIC 3458 | PO Box 465Daylesford VIC 3460 |