

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, DISABILITY AND AGEING

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
(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 Ageing, acting under subsection 19(2) of the *Health Insurance Act 1973* (the Act), hereby:

- (1) DIRECT that Medicare Benefits shall be payable in respect of
- (a) A professional service (as defined in Section 3 of the Act) which has been agreed to be provided under the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Department of Health and Aged Care (ABN: 83 605 426 759) and the Northern Territory of Australia (ABN: 84 085 734 992) dated 6 March 2025 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 Act), diagnostic imaging services table (means the table prescribed under subsection 4AA(1) of the Act) or pathology services table (means the table prescribed under subsection 4A(1) of the Act) relates; and
 - (b) where the profession service is provided to:
 - (i) an eligible person (as defined in Section 3 of the Act); 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 service referred to in paragraph (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
 - (ii) is either:
 - (A) a professional non-referred service provided by a state remunerated medical practitioner, participating midwife, or participating nurse practitioner; or
 - (B) a professional referred service provided by a state remunerated allied health and dental health practitioner.

(2) DECLARE that this Direction commences on 1 July 2025 and ceases to have effect at the end of 30 June 2027 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: 16 June 2025

Nigel Murray
Assistant Secretary
MBS Policy and Specialist Programs Branch
Medicare Benefits and Digital Health Division
Health Resourcing Group
Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

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 – 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	Item Number
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	Optometric services provided by optometrist			
A11	Urgent attendances after hours			
A14	Health assessments			
A15	GP chronic condition management plans, multidisciplinary care plans and case conferences	1	GP chronic condition management plans and multidisciplinary care plans	
		2	Case Conferences	735, 739, 743, 747-758, 930-945
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			
A29	Attendance services for complex neurodevelopmental disorder or disability			139
A35	Non-referred attendance at a residential aged care facility			
A36	Eating disorders	1	Preparation of eating disorder treatment and management plans: general practitioners and non-specialist medical practitioners	90250-90257
		3	Review of eating disorder treatment and management plans	90264, 90265

Group	Group Name	Subgroup	Subgroup Name	Item Number
		4	Providing treatments under eating disorder treatment and management plans	90271-90278
A40	Telehealth attendance services	1	General practice video services	
		2	General practice phone services	
		3	Focussed Psychological Strategies - Video Services	
		10	Focussed Psychological Strategies phone services	
		11	Health Assessments for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People - Video Services	
		13	GP management plans, team care arrangements and multidisciplinary care plans services – Video Services	
		15	GP Pregnancy Support Counselling - Video Services	
		16	GP Pregnancy Support Counselling - Phone Service	
		17	GP, specialist and consultant physician complex neurodevelopmental disorder or disability service - Video Services	92142
		19	GP Mental Health Treatment Plan - Video Services	
		20	GP Mental Health Treatment Plan - Phone Service	
		21	GP Eating Disorder Treatment and Management Plan – Video Services	
		25	Review of an Eating Disorder Plan - Video Services	92170, 92171
		26	Review of an Eating Disorder Plan – Phone Service	92176, 92177
		27	Eating Disorder Psychological Treatment Services – Video Services	
		28	Eating Disorder Psychological Treatment Strategies – Phone Service	
		29	GP and Other Medical Practitioner - Urgent After Hours Service in Unsociable Hours - Video Services	

Group	Group Name	Subgroup	Subgroup Name	Item Number
		39	GP Blood Borne Viruses, Sexual or Reproductive Health Consultation – Video Services	
		40	GP Blood Borne Viruses, Sexual or Reproductive Health Consultation – Phone Service	
D1	Miscellaneous diagnostic procedures and investigations	3	Otolaryngology	11300-11318
		4	Respiratory	11505, 11506
		5	Vascular	11602-11615
		6	Cardiovascular	11707, 11729, 11730
		9	Allergy testing	12001-12004, 12012, 12017
		10	Other diagnostic procedures and investigations	12200, 12306, 12312, 12315, 12320-12322, 12325, 12326
D2	Nuclear medicine (non-imaging)			12500, 12524, 12527
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, an Aboriginal health worker or an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner on behalf of a medical practitioner			
M13	Midwifery Services	1	MBS items for participating midwives	82100-82115, 82130-82140
M14	Nurse practitioners			
M15	Diagnostic audiology services			
M16	Eating disorders services			
M18	Allied Health telehealth services	1	Psychological therapies video services	
		2	Psychologist focussed psychological strategies video services	
		3	Occupational Therapist focussed psychological strategies video services	

Group	Group Name	Subgroup	Subgroup Name	Item Number
		4	Social Worker focussed psychological strategies video services	
		5	Nurse practitioner video 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 video services	
		12	General allied health phone services	
		13	Pregnancy support counselling video services	
		14	Pregnancy support counselling phone services	
		15	Complex neurodevelopmental disorder and disability video services	
		16	Complex neurodevelopmental disorder and disability phone services	
		17	Video 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 video services	
		26	Allied health, group dietetics phone services	
T1		2	Dialysis	13105

Group	Group Name	Subgroup	Subgroup Name	Item Number
	Miscellaneous therapeutic procedures	6	Gastroenterology	
		13	Miscellaneous therapeutic procedures	14206
T4	Obstetrics			16400, 16406-16500, 16502-16514, 16530, 16590, 16591
		1	Obstetric video services	91850-91853
		2	Obstetric phone services	91855-91858
T8	Surgical operations	1	General	30003, 30006, 30023, 30026-30055, 30061-30072, 30107, 30192-30207, 30216, 30219, 31356
		2	Colorectal	32072, 32147
		4	Gynaecological	35503
		8	Ear, nose and throat	41500
		15	Orthopaedic	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
O1	Consultations			51700, 51703
		1	dental practitioner video services	54001, 54002
		2	dental practitioner phone services	54004

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	Legal Name	Street Address	Mailing Address
Adelaide River	Adelaide River Health Centre	Northern Territory of Australia	21 Becker Street, Adelaide River NT 0846	C/- Adelaide River PO NT 0846
Batchelor	Batchelor Health Clinic	Northern Territory of Australia	27 Pinaroo Crescent, Batchelor NT 0845	C/- Batchelor Post Office NT 0845
Jabiru	Jabiru Community Health Centre	Northern Territory of Australia	14 Flinders Street, Jabiru NT 0886	PO Box 221 Jabiru NT 0886
Katherine	Katherine Hospital	Northern Territory of Australia	155 Giles Street, Katherine NT 0852	PMB 73 Katherine NT 0852
Nhulunbuy	Gove District Hospital	Northern Territory of Australia	Matthew Flinders Way, Nhulunbuy NT 0880	PO Box 421 Nhulunbuy NT 0881
Tennant Creek	Tennant Creek Hospital	Northern Territory of Australia	45 Schmidt Street, Tennant Creek NT 0860	PO Box 346 Tennant Creek NT 0861