**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 – Western Australia) Direction (No. 1) 2025**

I, Nigel Murray, Assistant Secretary, MBS Policy and Specialist Programs Branch, Medicare 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 – Western Australia) Direction (No. 2) 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 Department of Health of Western Australia (ABN: 28 684 750 332) dated 1 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:
	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)* or 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 service referred to in paragraph (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
	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 professional or dental practitioner.

DECLARE that this Direction commences the day after this instrument is registered 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: 9 January 2025

Nigel Murray

Assistant Secretary

MBS Policy and Specialist Programs Branch

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 – WEStern Australia**

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 | Optometric services provided by optometrist |
| A11 | Urgent attendances 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, an 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 disorders 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 locationHormone 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 – Western Australia**

Approved locations and outreach services:

| **Location** | **Practice Name** | **Legal Name** | **Street Address** | **Mailing Address** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Bayulu (Outreach service of Fitzroy Crossing) | Bayulu Clinic | WA Country Health Service | Lot 10 Lamey Avenue, St Georges Ranges Via Fitzroy Crossing WA 6765  | PO Box 27Bayulu Community Via Fitzroy Crossing WA 6765 |
| Bremer Bay (Outreach service of Ravensthorpe) | Bremer Bay Health Centre | WA Country Health Service | 29 John StreetBremer Bay WA 6339 | 29 John StreetBremer Bay WA 6339 |
| Bridgetown | Bridgetown Hospital | WA Country Health Service | 28 Peninsula Road Bridgetown WA 6255 | PO Box 136Bridgetown WA 6255 |
| Burringurrah (Outreach service of Carnarvon) | Burringurrah Nursing Post | WA Country Health Service | Sixth StreetBurringurrah Community  | C/- PO Box 417Carnarvon WA 6701 |
| Carnarvon | Carnarvon Hospital | WA Country Health Service | Cleaver Street Carnarvon WA 6701 | PO Box 417Carnarvon WA 6701 |
| Coral Bay (Outreach service of Carnarvon) | Coral Bay Nursing Post | WA Country Health Service | 67 Robinson Street Coral Bay WA 6701 | 67 Robinson StreetCoral Bay WA 6701 |
| Denham(Outreach service of Carnarvon) | Shark Bay Silver Chain Health Centre | WA Country Health Service | 53 Hughes Street Denham WA 6537 | 53 Hughes StreetDenham WA 6537 |
| Denmark | Denmark Health Service  | Western Australia Country Health Service | 50 Scotsdale Road  Denmark WA 6333  | 50 Scotsdale Road  Denmark WA 6333  |
| Derby | Derby Hospital | WA Country Health Service | 67-71 Clarendon Street Derby WA 6728 | PMB 938Derby WA 6728 |
| Esperance | Esperance Health Campus  | Western Australia Country Health Service | Hicks St, Esperance WA 6450   | PO Box 339, Esperance WA 6450   |
| Exmouth | Exmouth Health Service | WA Country Health Service | Lot 1448 Lyon Street Exmouth WA 6707 | Lot 1448 Lyon StreetExmouth WA 6707 |
| Fitzroy Crossing | Fitzroy Crossing Health Service | WA Country Health Service | 82 Fallon Road Fitzroy Crossing WA 6765 | PO Box 5Fitzroy Crossing WA 6765 |
| Gascoyne Junction (Outreach service of Carnarvon) | Gascoyne Junction Outreach Clinic | WA Country Health Service | C/- Community Resource Centre Lot 4 Scott Street Gascoyne Junction WA 6705 | C/- PO Box 417Carnarvon WA 6701 |
| Gnowangerup (Outreach service of Katanning) | Gnowangerup Hospital | WA Country Health Service | 3493 Broomehill-Gnowangerup Road Gnowangerup WA 6335 | 3493 Broomehill-Gnowangerup RoadGnowangerup WA 6335 |
| Halls Creek | Halls Creek Hospital | WA Country Health Service | 70 Roberta Avenue Halls Creek WA 6770 | 70 Roberta AveHalls Creek WA 6770 |
| Jerramungup (Outreach service of Ravensthorpe) | Bremer Bay (Jerramungup) Health Centre | WA Country Health Service | 7 Kokoda Road Jerramungup WA 6337 | 7 Kokoda RoadJerramungup WA 6337 |
| Kalumburu (Outreach service of Kununurra) | Kalumburu Health Clinic | WA Country Health Service | 138 Kalumburu Boulevard Kalumburu WA 6740 | PMB 12 Via Wyndham WA 6740 |
| Katanning | Katanning Health Service | WA Country Health Service | 11-31 Kobeelya Avenue Katanning WA 6317 | Katanning Hospital Site Francis Street Katanning WA 6317 |
| Kojonup (Outreach service of Katanning) | Kojonup Hospital | WA Country Health Service | 36-50 Spring Street Kojonup WA 6395 | 36-50 Spring Street Kojonup WA 6395 |
| Kununurra | Kununurra District Hospital | WA Country Health Service | 96 Coolibah Drive Kununurra WA 6743 | PO Box 239Kununurra WA 6743 |
| Lombadina (Outreach service of Derby) | Lombadina Health Centre | WA Country Health Service | Lot 404 Lombadina Road Dampier Peninsula WA 6725 | PMB 6Via Broome WA 6725 |
| Looma (Outreach service of Derby) | Looma Clinic | WA Country Health Service | 19H Ngaliwanya Street Camballin WA 6728 | PMB 903 Via Derby WA 6728 |
| Manjimup | Warren (Manjimup) Health Service | WA Country Health Service | 16 Hospital Avenue Manjimup WA 6258 | PO Box 179MANJIMUP WA 6258 |
| Meekatharra | Meekatharra Hospital | WA Country Health Service | Savage Street Meekatharra WA 6642 | Savage Street Meekatharra WA 6642 |
| Merredin | Merredin Hospital | WA Country Health Service | Kitchener Road Merredin WA 6415 | Kitchener Road Merredin WA 6415 |
| Moora | Moora Health Service | WA Country Health Service | 66 Dandaragan StreetMoora WA 6510 | 66 Dandaragan Street Moora WA 6510 |
| Mount Barker | Plantagenet – Cranbrook Health Service | WA Country Health Service | 59 Langton Road Mount Barker WA 6324 | 59 Langton Road Mount Barker WA 6324 |
| Narrogin | Narrogin Hospital | WA Country Health Service | Williams Road Narrogin WA 6312 | PO Box 336 Narrogin WA 6312 |
| Nookanbah (Outreach service of Fitzroy Crossing) | Nookanbah Clinic | WA Country Health Service | Nookanbah Community Fitzroy Crossing WA 6765 | PO Box 14Fitzroy Crossing WA 6765 |
| Norseman (Outreach service of Esperance) | Norseman Hospital | Western Australia Country Health Service | 1 Talbot St, Norseman WA 6443 | 1 Talbot St, Norseman WA 6443 |
| One Arm Point | One Arm Point Health Centre | WA Country Health Service | One Arm Point Community 89 One Arm Point Road, Broome WA 6725 | PMB 13Via Broome WA 6725 |
| Onslow | Onslow Hospital | WA Country Health Service | 73 Second Avenue Onslow WA 6710 | 73 Second Avenue Onslow WA 6710 |
| Ravensthorpe | Ravensthorpe Health Centre | WA Country Health Service | Martin Street Ravensthorpe WA 6346 | PO Box 53 Ravensthorpe WA 6346 |
| Roebourne | Roebourne District Hospital   | Western Australia Country Health Service | 42-44 Hampton Street, Roebourne WA 6718 | PO Box 81, Roebourne WA 6718 |
| Tambellup (Outreach service of Katanning) | Tambellup Health Centre | WA Country Health Service | 30 Norrish Street Tambellup WA 6320 | 30 Norrish Street Tambellup WA 6320 |
| Useless Loop (Outreach service of Carnarvon) | Useless Loop Medical Centre | WA Country Health Service | 1 Wilson Rise Useless Loop WA 6537 | 1 Wilson Rise Useless Loop WA 6537 |
| Walpole (Outreach service of Roebourne) | Walpole Health Centre | Western Australia Country Health Service | 2 Pier St, Walpole WA 6398 | 2 Pier St, Walpole WA 6398 |
| Wangkatjungka (Outreach service of Fitzroy Crossing) | Wangkatjungka Clinic | WA Country Health Service | Christmas Creek Fitzroy Crossing WA 6765 | PO Box 288 Fitzroy Crossing WA 6765 |
| Warmun (Outreach service of Kununurra) | Warmun Health Clinic | WA Country Health Service | Ord Street Warmun WA 6749 | Ord StreetWarmun WA 6749 |
| Wyndham | Wyndham District Hospital | WA Country Health Service | 43 Minderoo Street Wyndham WA 6740 | PO Box 230Wyndham WA 6740 |
| Yiyili (Outreach service of Halls Creek) | Yiyili Clinic | WA Country Health Service | Lot 1 Louisa Downs Road Halls Creek WA 6770 | PMB 12 Halls Creek WA 6770 |