

Private Health Insurance Circular



Australian Government
Department of Health

Private Health Insurance Branch
Medical Benefits Division
MDP 853, GPO Box 9848
Canberra ACT 2601

PHI 15/14
19 March 2014

Nursing-Home Type Patient Contribution Rates and Minimum Benefits as at 20 March 2014

The *Private Health Insurance (Complying Product) Amendment Rules 2014 (No.2)* ('the Complying Product Amendment Rules') and the *Private Health Insurance (Benefit Requirements) Amendment Rules 2014 (No. 1)* ('the Benefit Requirements Amendment Rules') were registered with the Federal Register of Legislative Instruments (FRLI) and commence on 20 March 2014 (FRLI No: F2014L00311 and F2014L00309 respectively).

The Rules amend the *Private Health Insurance (Complying Product) Rules 2010 (No. 2)* and the *Private Health Insurance (Benefit Requirements) Rules 2011*.

The Complying Product Amendment Rules

Nursing-home type patient contribution rates have been updated to reflect the indexation applied to the Adult Pension Basic Rate and Maximum Daily Rate of Rental Assistance.

The amendments update the patient contribution rates for nursing-home type patients in Queensland, New South Wales, South Australia, Northern Territory, Tasmania, and Western Australia; and increased the private hospitals nationally.

State/Territory	Contribution Rates
Queensland	from \$54.75 to \$55.80
New South Wales	from \$54.75 to \$55.80
Northern Territory	from \$52.05 to \$55.80
South Australia	from \$54.75 to \$55.80
Tasmania	from \$54.75 to \$55.80
Western Australia	from \$54.75 to \$55.80
Private hospitals nationally	from \$54.75 to \$55.80

The existing rates for other states and territories remain in force and are as follows:

State/Territory	Contribution Rates
Australian Capital Territory	\$53.55
Victoria	\$54.75

If you require further information, please telephone (02) 6289 9853 (24 hour answering machine) or email the enquiry to privatehealth@health.gov.au.

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The Benefit Requirements Amendment Rules

Nursing-Home Type Patients - Schedule 4

Nursing-home type patient minimum benefits have been updated to reflect the indexation applied to the Adult Pension Basic Rate and Maximum Daily Rate of Rental Assistance.

The amendments increase the minimum benefits payable for privately insured nursing-home type patients at public hospitals in New South Wales, Tasmania and Northern Territory, and decrease the minimum benefits payable at private hospitals nationally. The changes are as follows:

State/Territory	Minimum benefit per night
New South Wales	from \$111.70 to \$114.05
Tasmania	from \$131.40 to \$133.90
Northern Territory	From \$77.47 to \$83.10
Private hospitals nationally	from \$56.35 to \$55.30

The existing rates for other states and territories remain in force and are as follows:

State/Territory	Minimum benefit per night
South Australia	\$111.00
ACT	\$111.20
Western Australia	\$125.45
Victoria	\$118.00
Queensland	\$109.00

Medicare Benefit Schedule (MBS) item number – Schedule 3

The Benefit Requirements Amendment Rules insert one new MBS item in Schedule 3 of the *Private Health Insurance (Benefit Requirements) 2011*.

Item 1 - Schedule 3, Part 3 Type C procedures, Clause 8 Interpretation, Category 3 – Therapeutic procedures, T11

Item 1 amends Schedule 3, Part 3 Type C procedures, Clause 8 Interpretation, Category 3 Therapeutic procedures, T11 of the Principal Rules by inserting 1 MBS item (18377). This MBS item relates to therapeutic procedures which are not usually performed in hospital. However, it is recognised that this item may be performed, in rare cases, in isolation in hospital if determined by the treating medical practitioner.

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MBS item 18377 commenced on 1 March 2014 under a remake of the *Health Insurance (General Medical Services Table) Regulations*. MBS item 18377 is a new item to make benefits available for the treatment of chronic migraine with the injection of botulinum toxin type A for patients 18 years or older who have experienced an inadequate response to at least 3 prophylactic migraine medications before commencement, and the requirements relating to botulinum toxin type A under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme are complied with.

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