



Australian Government
Department of Health and Aged Care

MEDICARE PLUS FOR OTHER MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS PROGRAM GUIDELINES

1 July 2023



MEDICARE PLUS FOR OTHER MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS PROGRAM

Important Notice:

From 1 January 2019, the MedicarePlus for Other Medical Practitioners Program (MOMPs Program) will not be accepting new applications to join the Program.

The MOMPs program was due to cease on 30 June 2023. However, on 9 May 2023 the Government announced the extension of the program until 31 December 2023. This change will ensure medical practitioners registered under this program continue to be able to provide GP services under the MBS.

Medical practitioners who are already on the MOMPs Program can continue in the Program and can access A1 Medicare rebates until 31 December 2023.

Medical practitioners participating in the Program have until 31 December 2023 to complete 20 active quarters to continue to access A1 Medicare rebates after that date.

These Guidelines have effect from 1 July 2023.

1. Introduction

The MOMPs Program commenced on 1 February 2004 and provides access to the higher A1 Medicare rebates for services provided by pre 1996 non-vocationally registered medical practitioners who provide services in an area of workforce shortage.

After medical practitioners have provided services in an area of workforce shortage for 20 active quarters (5 years), their services will continue to attract the higher rebate regardless of where they are subsequently located.

The MOMPs Program is administered by Services Australia through Medicare on behalf of the Department of Health and Aged Care, and in accordance with these Guidelines. All decisions under the Program are made by senior and executive officers in the Department of Health and Aged Care who are authorised by the Minister (Authorised Persons).

2. Eligibility

To be eligible for this Program persons must:

- be a participant in an Other Medical Practitioners (OMPs) program on 30 June 2023;
- be registered as a medical practitioner with a State or Territory Medical Registration Board before 1 November 1996;
- be eligible to claim Medicare benefits;
- provide medical services in a defined area of workforce shortage; and

- be a non-vocationally recognised medical practitioner or not hold fellowship of a general practice college.

3. Transferring between Programs

All OMPs programs were closed to new participants on 1 January 2019. Medical practitioners participating in an OMPs program before 1 January 2019 can apply to join the MOMP's Program, noting the Government announced the extension of the program until 31 December 2023.

Applications to transfer between OMPs programs will be assessed against the eligibility requirements of the relevant program.

OMPs programs are:

- Medicare Plus for Other Medical Practitioners Program (MOMP's Program)
- Rural Other Medical Practitioners Program (ROMPs Program)
- After Hours Other Medical Practitioners Program (AHOMP's Program)
- Outer Metropolitan Other Medical Practitioners Program (OMOMP's Program)

4. Eligible Locations

Areas of Workforce Shortage

For the purpose of this Program, nationwide areas of workforce shortage have been determined using a population to 'full-time equivalent (FTE) general practitioner ratio'.

Indigenous Health Training posts (formerly Aboriginal Medical Service posts) will be considered an area of workforce shortage under this Program.

Reviewing Areas of Workforce Shortage

The defined areas of workforce shortage will be updated annually and may affect location eligibility.

If a location that has been eligible under the Program is no longer classified as an area of workforce shortage, current Program participants providing medical services in this location will remain eligible and will be able to have their service counted towards their five years in an area of workforce shortage. However the same location will not be available to new Program participants who have transferred from another OMPs Program.

5. Continuing Professional Development Requirements

Requirements for Continuing Professional Development

To maintain eligibility for the MOMP's Program medical practitioners will be required to undertake continuing professional development activities within three months of commencing on the MOMP's Program.

Both the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) and the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) provide recognised continuing professional development programs.

Please contact the individual Colleges for further information regarding their programs.

Reporting on Continuing Professional Development Requirements

It is the responsibility of individual medical practitioners to ensure they are meeting their continuing professional development requirements.

The RACGP and ACRRM will provide Services Australia with the names of medical practitioners who have not met their continuing professional development requirements at the end of each triennium.

Participants who have not met continuing professional development requirements will receive a letter from Services Australia advising that their access to the higher A1 Medicare rebate will cease in 28 days from the date stated on the letter.

The participant will need to contact the RACGP or ACRRM to arrange to meet their continuing professional development requirements.

If the RACGP or ACRRM does not contact Services Australia within the 28 days confirming the participant has met the continuing professional development requirements, access to the higher A1 Medicare rebate will cease.

6. Completion of Five Years' Service

Five Years in an Area of Workforce Shortage

Under the MOMP's Program, a medical practitioner who has been registered under the program to practise in an area of workforce shortage for a total of 20 active quarters (5 years) will continue to attract the higher A1 Medicare rebate regardless of where they practice in the future.

Defining an Active Quarter

An active quarter is a defined quarter of the year where Medicare billing equals at least \$10,000. Service performed under the ROMP's Program, AHOMP's or OMOMP's Program do not count towards the calculation of an active quarter.

Level of Service Required

Medical practitioners will need to complete 20 active quarters of service under the program in an area of workforce shortage before they can apply for unrestricted access to the higher Medicare rebate. There is no requirement for these quarters to be completed consecutively; however they must be completed before the MOMP's Program ceases on 31 December 2023.

Any medical practitioner who does not complete 20 active quarters by 31 December 2023 will no longer have access to the higher A1 Medicare rebates.

Verification of Completion of Five Years' Service

Services Australia is responsible for verifying the completion of 20 active quarters service by participants in the MOMP's Program.

Twenty active quarters is the equivalent of 5 years with Medicare billing of at least \$10,000.

Services Australia will advise participants of the number of active quarters they complete in each calendar year.

7. Authorised Person's Discretion

The Authorised Person for the MOMP's Program will have full discretion to make decisions on all matters relating to the administration of the Program, including but not limited to approval of locations and medical practitioners.

8. Application Process

Application forms for the MOMP's Program are available on the Services Australia or the Department of Health and Aged Care web sites. Applicants should return completed application forms to Services Australia.

Services Australia is responsible for assessing applications for the MOMP's Program and will process applications within 21 business days of receipt of completed application forms.

Services Australia will advise successful applicants of the commencement date of payment of the higher A1 Medicare rebate in the letter advising approval for the Program. Payment of the higher rebate will not be backdated.

If the successful applicant already has a provider number for the practice location stated on their MOMP's application, they will not need to apply for a new provider number for that location. If they do not have a provider number for the practice location, they must complete an application for a provider number through Services Australia.

The Department of Health and Aged Care and Services Australia - Medicare take no responsibility for medical practitioners who improperly commence practice or commence billing at the higher A1 Medicare rebate prior to receiving approval from Services Australia.

9. Change of Details

Program participants are required to notify Services Australia within 14 days if they move out of an area of workforce shortage, or are otherwise no longer eligible for the MOMP's Program.

10. Program Contact Details

Department of Health and Aged Care

To obtain further information regarding the program, contact:

OMPs@health.gov.au

Service Australia - Medicare

To obtain application forms, payment information and advice, or to determine areas of workforce shortage eligibility, contact the Services Australia – Medicare by emailing: PROVIDER.REGISTRATION@humanservices.gov.au

For further information regarding continuing professional development contact:

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners

RACGP National Office

100 Wellington Parade

East Melbourne, VIC, 3002

Ph: 1800 472 247

[The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners](http://www.racgp.org.au) (www.racgp.org.au)

The Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine ACRRM

GPO Box 2507

Brisbane, QLD, 4000

Ph: 1800 223 226

[Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine](http://www.acrrm.org.au) (www.acrrm.org.au)

