



Strengthening Medicare with more bulk billing

The Australian Government is investing \$7.9 billion to expand eligibility for bulk billing incentive items to all Australians and to create the Bulk Billing Practice Incentive Program to support General Practices across the country to bulk bill every patient.

Expanding eligibility for bulk billing incentives

Currently, bulk billing incentives provide additional payments to GPs when they bulk bill children under the age of 16 and Commonwealth Concession Card holders.

From 1 November 2025, GPs will be able to claim bulk billing incentive items when they bulk bill **any** Medicare-eligible patient.

Bulk Billing Practice Incentive Program

From 1 November 2025, the Government will support thousands of GP practices to bulk bill every patient, with the launch of a new **Bulk Billing Practice Incentive Program**.

In addition to bulk billing incentive items, participating practices in the Program will receive an additional 12.5% loading payment on every \$1 of MBS benefit earned from GP NRA services, split between the GP and the practice.

To participate in the Program, a GP practice will need to:

- o Commit to bulk bill all GP NRA services
- o Advertise their participation in the Program
- o Be registered with MyMedicare (accreditation requirements will be waived for practices joining the Program)

Participating practices will be expected to advertise as fully bulk billing on Healthdirect's National Health Services Directory and will be supported with marketing materials to identify their participation in the Program.

Payments to GPs and practices will be made quarterly, in arrears, beginning in early 2026.

Example Case Studies

Large mixed billing GP practice

A large GP practice in a major city is providing around 40,000 GP services a year.

Due to recent cost pressures, GPs at the practice have started to bill some of their patients for the first time. The practice now bulk bills around 78% of its services.

Last year, the practice received \$2.4 million from MBS benefits and an additional \$260,000 in patient charges.

If the practice and its GPs participate in the **Bulk Billing Practice Incentive Program they will receive \$575,000** in additional revenue from bulk billing and practice incentives.

After covering the \$260,000 shortfall from no longer charging patients, the practice and its GPs are \$315,000 a year better off – with additional revenue now available to grow its team, upgrade its facilities and expand its services.

Medium bulk billing GP practice

A medium-sized GP practice in a large rural town is providing around 20,000 GP services a year.

The practice has always been bulk billing. Over the last few years, GPs at the practice have found it increasingly difficult to provide high-quality care without charging patients. Many GPs are considering leaving the practice to work at nearby mixed billing practices.

Last year, the practice received \$1.4 million from MBS benefits.

If the practice and its GPs participate in the **Bulk Billing Practice Incentive Program they will receive \$310,000** in additional revenue from bulk billing and practice incentives – an increase of around 22 per cent on its current MBS benefits.

This will ensure the practice and its GPs remain able to bulk bill every patient, with additional revenue now available to grow their team, upgrade their facilities and expand their services.

Example Case Studies

Small mixed billing GP practice

A small GP practice in a major city is providing around 6,000 GP services a year.

The practice has been mixed billing for a few years, billing some patients, some of the time – depending on the service – while maintaining bulk billing for existing patients. The practice bulk bills around 79% of their services.

Last year, the practice received around \$410,000 from MBS benefits and an additional \$41,000 in patient charges.

If the GP practice participates in the **Bulk Billing Practice Incentive Program** **they will receive around \$97,000** in additional revenue from bulk billing and practice incentives.

After covering the \$41,000 shortfall from no longer charging patients, the practice is now \$56,000 a year better off – with additional revenue now available to invest in the practice.

What does this mean for GPs?

Can I claim bulk billing incentive items if my practice doesn't join the Program?

Yes. GPs will be able to claim bulk billing incentive items for any patient they bulk bill. There will be no other changes to existing bulk billing items.

Does my practice have to join the Bulk Billing Practice Incentive Program?

No. The Program is voluntary. Practices can choose to opt-in or opt-out at any time.

I work at two GP practices – do both have to participate in the Program?

No. GPs will only be required to bulk bill all of their services at participating practices.

What services must be bulk billed in the Program?

All general practice non-referred attendance (GP NRA) services must be bulk billed for all patients. This includes most time-tiered consultation items, health assessments, mental health treatment plans and chronic disease management items.

Services that do not fall within this category (e.g. some procedural items) will not be subject to the bulk billing requirement.

A full list of items will be made available on the Department's website.

Do all GPs have to meet the bulk billing requirements for the practice to join the Program?

Yes. All GPs at a participating clinic must bulk bill all applicable services for all patients.

How often will incentive payments be made?

Incentive payments will be made quarterly in arrears. Payments will commence in the first quarter of 2026.

How will the incentive payment be paid and who receives it, practices or GPs?

The incentive payment will be split between practices and GPs, with a portion paid directly to the GP and a portion paid directly to their associated clinic.

The payment split will be determined in consultation with the sector.

Bulk billing incentive benefits will continue to be paid directly to the GP.

Do I need to track my practice's bulk billing and provide this information in order to receive a payment?

No. Payments will be automated. Services Australia will monitor your practice's adherence to the bulk billing requirement and will provide payment based on information in the system.