



What can I do to avoid practising inappropriately?

Information on your responsibilities and sources of information to meet Medicare requirements.

How to avoid practising inappropriately

It is your responsibility as the treating practitioner to ensure that every service you claim under Medicare and your PBS prescribing complies with the legislative requirements. Make sure that all items claimed under your Medicare Provider Number and PBS medicines prescribed under your Prescriber Number are in accordance with MBS, CDBS, and PBS requirements. That is, they meet all the MBS and CDBS item descriptor requirements and comply with PBS prescribing restrictions. You should also refer to the explanatory notes to assist with your claiming.

[MBS Online](#) provides detailed information on MBS items, including item descriptors, fact sheets, frequently asked questions, and latest news. You can also contact askMBS@health.gov.au for advice on the interpretation of MBS items and rules. Information on PBS requirements, including restrictions and Authority requirements, can be found at pbs.gov.au. Information on the CDBS for practitioners can be found on the Services Australia website (<https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/child-dental-benefits-schedule-for-health-professionals>).

Make sure all the services you provide are clinically relevant. Medicare Benefits are only claimable for 'clinically relevant' services rendered by an appropriate health practitioner. A 'clinically relevant' service is one that is generally accepted by the relevant profession as necessary for the appropriate treatment of the patient. If you provide a service that fits a description contained in an MBS item, this does not automatically make that service clinically relevant or eligible for Medicare benefits, for example because the attendance or treatment was not medically necessary for the patient.

You can also refer to codes of conduct and best practice guidelines developed and approved by the National Boards. Many of the [codes and guidelines](#) developed by the National Boards are consistent with the principles associated with appropriate practice.

More Information

- [Inappropriate practice](#)
- [The Department's role in identifying possible inappropriate practice](#)
- [Common compliance issues associated with findings of inappropriate practice](#)
- [MBS Online](#)
- pbs.gov.au
- [Child Dental Benefits Schedule for health professionals](#)
- [Professional Services Review](#)
- [Medicare Billing Assurance Toolkit](#)
- [Billing accurately under Medicare](#)
- [Health professional guidelines](#)
- [AHPRA codes and guidelines](#)