



# PHI Act Data Specifications – 2024-25 and 2025-26

## Changes effective for Hospital Casemix Protocol – Inpatient (HCP1) data

The department introduced a new reporting requirement to private health insurers to submit 2024-25 financial year Hospital Casemix Protocol Inpatient (HCP1) data, including a new data item – Practitioner Provider Identifier, to the department. The 2025-26 financial year HCP1 data specifications will also be updated to incorporate the new data item and delay insurers reporting obligations. The collection of this new data item will enable the department to apply suppression rules based on individual health professionals to protect data from re-identification. Without it, suppression is currently based on the number of hospitals contributing data, which is less precise and limits reporting detail. In line with advice received from the Australian Government Solicitor, these supplementary updates to the HCP1 data specifications will be facilitated under amendments to the *Private Health Insurance (Data Provision) Rules 2018*. Once these amendments are made, Services Australia will issue updated certificates to insurers who are existing Provider Directory System (PDS) authorised recipients to enable on-disclosure of information from the PDS to the department for HCP1 reporting obligations. If access is required, please refer to the [application for an authorised recipient to apply for access to the PDS](#).

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# 1. Implementation

These data specification updates are supplementary to previously published updates on the department's website for [2024-25](#) and [2025-26](#) financial year. They affect HCP1 reporting obligations from private health insurers and do not impact hospitals' reporting obligations. Changes in this summary document are correspondingly indicated **IN RED** in the associated supplementary data specification Excel workbook for each financial year. The timing, input file format, and edit rules are different between each financial year.

## Summary of new reporting requirements:

| Financial year and collection | Timing                                                                                                                                                                                            | Input file format                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2024-25 HCP1                  | All submissions provided by the end of December 2025 unless an extension is provided in writing from the Department to the insurer.                                                               | Full HCP1 file, as per the Supplementary - HCP Data Specifications HCP1 Insurer to Department 2024-25 Excel workbook.<br><br>Where this is not possible, please discuss alternative input file format options such as providing a medical table separately and/or full financial year in one file with <a href="mailto:HCP@health.gov.au">HCP@health.gov.au</a> . |
| 2025-26 HCP1                  | Commence monthly submissions in January 2026 unless an extension is provided in writing from the Department to the insurer. Early submissions and/or testing will be accepted from November 2025. | Full HCP1 file, as per the Supplementary - HCP Data Specifications HCP1 Insurer to Department 2025-26 Excel workbook.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

## 2. 2024-25 Submission with Practitioner Provider Number

### Reporting requirements (2024-25 only)

|                   |                                                        |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Data item:</b> | Explanatory notes – Reporting requirements             |
| <b>Dataset:</b>   | HCP1 (2024-25 only)                                    |
| <b>Changes:</b>   | New reporting requirements added                       |
| <b>Reason:</b>    | To set a new reporting requirement from the department |

~~The insurer will provide the Department with HCP data for separations by calendar month within 20 weeks of the month to which it relates. For example, data for separations during the month of July are to be submitted by no later than the middle of December .~~

The insurer will provide the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (the department) with submissions of HCP1 data for separations occurring in and between July 2024 and June 2025. The submissions are to be provided on or after 1 November 2025 and before the end of 31 December 2025 through the Data Submission Portal unless an extension is provided in writing from the department to the insurer before the end of 31 December 2025.

### Notes about the input file (2024-25 only)

|                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Data item:</b> | Explanatory notes – Notes about the input file                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Dataset:</b>   | HCP1 (2024-25 only)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Changes:</b>   | Updated notes about input file                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Reason:</b>    | To provide clarity on data submission notification from <a href="mailto:nhr.edw.system@health.gov.au">nhr.edw.system@health.gov.au</a> and provide insurers with flexibility to submit input files in alternative formats subject to consultation with the Department. |

~~• If the input file is not structured as listed under Input File Format, it will be rejected.~~

• The Data Submission Portal will validate both 1) 2024-25 HCP1 files with the new data item in the medical table and 2) 2024-25 HCP1 files without the new data item in the medical table. The continued ability to validate the latter is crucial for Private Health Insurers unable to make software changes to incorporate the new data item into the 2024-25 HCP1 files.

- Where it is not possible to include the additional data item into a full HCP1 file, Private Health Insurers may provide input files in alternative formats subject to written approval from the department. An example of an alternative format is a medical table only with the additional data item, which should include the file header.

## Data Specifications (2024-25 onwards)

|                   |                                                              |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Data item:</b> | Practitioner Provider Number                                 |
| <b>Dataset:</b>   | HCP1 (2024-25 onwards)                                       |
| <b>Changes:</b>   | Add new data item in the medical table                       |
| <b>Reason:</b>    | To enable improved accuracy of data suppression in reporting |

## HCP1 – Medical – new field

| No                                                                                                           | Data Item                    | Obligation | Position Start | Position End | Type & size | Format                                                                                                                               | Coding description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Edit Rules                                                                                                                                                                    | Error code/s |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 11                                                                                                           | Practitioner Provider Number | MAA        | 92             | 99           | A(8)        | NNNNNNAA or NNNNNNAN<br>Right justify<br>6-digit stem, 1 location character, 1 check digit (uppercase or zero fill if not available) | The Services Australia issued health professional provider number to identify a person, their health profession at the practice location/s where the persons practises their profession and check digit. The provider number stem of the person providing the MBS item service and the location character corresponding to where the service was provided. Zero fill check it digit if not available. | <b>Reject</b> record if not a valid Practitioner Provider Number stem and practice ID in Service's Australia Provider Directory System. Check it digit will not be validated. | ME011.0      |
| Total record length = <b>92 100</b> characters; record type of 'M' followed by <b>94 99</b> character record |                              |            |                |              |             |                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                               |              |

### 3. 2025-26 Submission with Practitioner Provider Number

#### Reporting requirements (2025-26 only)

|                   |                                                                                                                                                   |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Data item:</b> | Explanatory notes – Reporting requirements                                                                                                        |
| <b>Dataset:</b>   | HCP1 (2025-26 only)                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Changes:</b>   | Providing an extension to insurers reporting requirements for 2025-26 HCP1 data, which will revert to 20 weeks in subsequent data specifications. |
| <b>Reason:</b>    | To provide insurers with additional time to make required software changes                                                                        |

The insurer will provide the Department with HCP data for separations by calendar month within ~~20~~ 26.5 weeks of the month to which it relates, unless an extension is provided in writing from the department to the insurer before the end of that period. For example, data for separations during the month of July 2025 are to be submitted by no later than ~~the middle of December~~ 31 January 2026. Insurers may submit and validate 2025-26 HCP1 files including 'Practitioner Provider Number' from 1 November 2025 in the Data Submission Portal.