



Prescribed pattern of services – What you need to know

Information about inappropriate practice and prescribed pattern of services (80/20 and 30/20 rules and which services apply).

Circumstances for Prescribed Pattern of Services

A medical practitioner engages in inappropriate practice where some or all the services rendered or initiated constitute a prescribed pattern of services. This includes:

- If they have rendered or initiated 80 or more relevant services on each of 20 or more days in a 12-month period (known as the 80/20 rule)
- If they have rendered or initiated 30 or more relevant phone services on each of 20 or more days in a 12-month period (known as the 30/20 rule)

The 80/20 Rule

The 80/20 rule aims to address consistently high volumes of rendered or initiated services by medical practitioners.

The [Health Insurance Act 1973](#) requires a request to be made to the Director of Professional Services Review (Director) if the delegate of the Chief Executive Medicare (delegate) becomes aware of a breach of the 80/20 rule. This pattern of service is deemed to constitute inappropriate practice, except in exceptional circumstances.

The 80/20 rule is based on the number of professional attendance services per day, which may not be the same as the number of patients seen in a day. The 80/20 rule also applies across all provider numbers and locations where a medical practitioner practices during a 12-month period.

Professional attendance services include the following groups as listed in the [Health Insurance \(Professional Services Review Scheme\) Regulation 2019](#):

- **A1** General practitioner attendances to which no other item applies
- **A2** Other non-referred attendances to which no other item applies
- **A5** Prolonged attendances to which no other item applies
- **A6** Group therapy
- **A7** Acupuncture
- **A9** Contact lenses - attendances
- **A11** Urgent attendances after hours
- **A13** Public health physician attendances to which no other item applies
- **A14** Health assessments



- **A15** GP management plans, team care arrangements and multidisciplinary care plans and case conferences
- **A17** Domiciliary and residential medication management reviews
- **A18** General practitioner attendances associated with Practice Incentive Program (PIP) payments
- **A19** Other non-referred attendances associated with PIP payments to which no other item applies
- **A20** Mental health care
- **A21** Medical practitioner (emergency physician) attendances to which no other item applies
- **A22** General practitioner after-hours attendances to which no other item applies
- **A23** Other non-referred after-hours attendances to which no other item applies
- **A27** Pregnancy support counselling
- **A35** Services for patients in Residential Aged Care Facilities
- **A39** Bushfire Recovery Access Initiative – GP and Medical Practitioner Focused Psychological Strategies
- **A41** COVID-19 Additional focussed psychological strategies
- **A42** Mental health planning for care recipients of a residential aged care facilities
- **A43** Care Recipient of a Residential Aged Care Facility Planning and Contribution items
- **A45** Nicotine and smoking cessation counselling
- **A36** Subgroup 1 or 4 eating disorders psychological treatment (EDPT) services
- **A40** Subgroups 1; 2; 3; 10; 11; 13; 15; 16; 19; 20; 21; 27; 28; 29; 39; 40; 41 telehealth and phone attendance services
- **A29** Item 139 Early intervention services for children with autism, pervasive developmental disorder or disability
- **A36** Items 90264 and 90265 EDPT services.
- **A40** Subgroup 17 Item 92142 telehealth and phone attendance services, COVID-19 GP, Specialist and Consultant Physician Autism Service – Telehealth Service
- **A40** Subgroup 25 Item 92170 and 92171 telehealth and phone attendance services, COVID-19 Review of an Eating Disorder Plan – Telehealth Service
- **A40** Subgroup 26 Item 92176 and 92177 telehealth and phone attendance services – COVID-19 Review of an Eating Disorder Plan – Phone Service

The 30/20 Rule

The 30/20 rule aims to address consistently high volumes of phone services rendered by medical practitioners to ensure high-quality and comprehensive patient care.

The 30/20 rule applies to relevant professional attendance phone services, including the following groups as listed in the Health Insurance (Professional Services Review Scheme) Regulations 2019:



- **A40 Subgroups 2; 8; 10; 16; 20; 28; 40; 41** telehealth and phone attendance services
- **A45 Subgroup 3** Nicotine and smoking cessation counselling
- **A40 Subgroup 26 Items 92176 and 92177**, telehealth and phone attendance services – COVID-19 Review of an Eating Disorder Plan – Phone Service
- **A41 Subgroup 1 Items 93302 and 93305** COVID-19 Additional focussed psychological strategies, GP additional focussed psychological strategies
- **A41 Subgroup 2 Items 93308 and 93311** COVID-19 Additional focussed psychological strategies, non-specialist practitioner additional focussed psychological strategies
- **A42 Subgroup 2 Item 93423** Mental health planning for care recipients of a residential aged care facilities, GP mental health treatment plan review for care recipients of a residential aged care facility
- **A42 Subgroup 4 Item 93453** Mental health planning for care recipients of a residential aged care facilities, non-specialist practitioner mental health treatment plan review for care recipients of a residential aged care facility

More information

[How 80/20 and 30/20 breaches are detected and next steps](#)

[Exceptional Circumstances](#)