



Medicare assignment of benefit requirements

Changes at a glance

What has changed

From 1 July 2026, there are more ways healthcare providers can obtain patients agreement to assign their Medicare benefit for each bulk billed service.

What for

All Medicare bulk billed claims.

Why

Makes it easier for healthcare providers to bulk bill, receive Medicare payments, and maintain accurate records.

How patients can assign their benefit



Electronic signature



Physical signature
(written on paper)



Typed e-signature



Touch confirmation or checkbox
(accept/agree)



Verbal agreement



Medicare Easyclaim on EFTPOS terminal

Assignment of benefit records

Information required on records depends on:

whether assignment is given before or after the service

whether the service is pathology, diagnostic imaging or another MBS service

Specific requirements are on page 2.

Records must be kept for 2 years.

4 things practices need to do to prepare



1 Contact your software provider to update your system.



2 Download and use the healthcare provider toolkit to brief your administration and reception staff.



3 Tell your patients about the change and use the available communication resources.



4 Check records regularly to ensure assignment of benefit is being captured correctly.

Assignment type	Pathology (excluding Group 9)	Diagnostic imaging	All other MBS services (including Group P9)
Pre-assignment	• Patient name • Date of assignment • Assignment type (pre-assignment) • Is the assignor the patient – yes/no • Date of specimen collection • Statement of assignor's agreement* • Description of the service	• Patient name • Date of assignment • Assignment type (pre-assignment) • Is the assignor the patient – yes/no • Date of imaging procedure • Statement of assignor's agreement (R type services)# • Description of the service	• Patient name • Date of assignment • Assignment type (pre-assignment) • Is the assignor the patient – yes/no • Details of the professional • Date of service • Basic service description
Post-assignment	• Patient name • Date of assignment • Assignment type (post-assignment) • Is the assignor the patient – yes/no • Date of specimen collection • Details of the professional (per Section 54 of the HIR) • MBS item/s	• Patient name • Date of assignment • Assignment type (post-assignment) • Is the assignor the patient – yes/no • Date of imaging procedure • Details of the professional • MBS item/s	• Patient name • Date of assignment • Assignment type (post-assignment) • Is the assignor the patient – yes/no • Details of the professional • Date of service • MBS item/s

* statement captures pathologist determinable services

statement captures DI services as per Section 16B of the HIA (i.e. services deemed required by rendering professional