



Rural Bulk Billing Incentives

From 1 January 2020, the rural classification system used to determine eligibility for Bulk Billing Incentives will change. Bulk Billing Incentives encourage medical practitioners to provide bulk billed services to vulnerable patient groups, such as people with concession cards and children under 16 years of age in rural and remote areas.

Changes to the **rural** Bulk Billing Incentives ensure that the higher incentives will be payable to areas correctly classified as rural. Decisions will be based on the latest updates to the Modified Monash Model (MMM) geographical classification system replacing the Rural Remote and Metropolitan Areas (RRMA) which dates back to 1991.

What the changes mean:

- Areas that are rural, but were not classified under the old geographic classification system as rural, will gain access to these incentives.
- Areas that were once classified as rural but are now metropolitan will no longer have access to these incentives.

The following MBS items will transition from RRMA to remoteness classification MMM:

Bulk Billing Incentives – MM 1	
MBS Item Number	Fee
10990	\$6.30
64990	\$6.00
74990	\$6.00

Rural Bulk Billing Incentives – MM 2 – 7*	
MBS Item Number	Fee
10991	\$9.50
64991	\$9.10
74991	\$9.10

*The amount of the incentive is the same across all MM 2 – 7 locations.

Doctors in metropolitan areas who no longer have access to the higher incentive items to bulk-bill vulnerable patients can still access bulk billing incentives that attract a lower fee.

From 1 July 2019 a map showing the MMM geographical classifications will be available at www.doctorconnect.gov.au noting that changes come into effect from 1 January 2020.

For more information contact rural.distribution@health.gov.au