



Red Ant Round Up 1 November 2025



MyMedicare in 10mins

1. Snapshot of Medicare Reform Timeline
2. MyMedicare and patients
3. Today's Changes to Bulkbilling BBPIP and Better Access
4. Best resources (Where to go for support?)





MyMedicare Timeline

- Existing/confirmed
- Planned changes

1 November 2023
MyMedicare –
Telehealth Items



1 July 2024
MyMedicare General
Practice In Aged Care
Incentive



1 July 2025
Chronic Conditions
Management Items
incorporate MyMedicare



1 November 2025
Better Access Mental
Health Treatment Plans
incorporate MyMedicare



1 November 2025
New MyMedicare
General Practice Bulk
Billing Incentive



**Future MyMedicare
programs**



MyMedicare Registration

Nationally – MM registrations

17.4% of the Australian population is now registered for MyMedicare. **88%** of registrations are initiated by practices, **10%** are initiated by patients, **2%** are initiated by agencies.

Over a million people registered for MM since 1 July – 30 Sep (4.3% of Australians). This is 2.3 times the rate previously. If these rates of registration continue ~4.2M more Australians would be registered in 12 months.

87% of general practices are registered for MyMedicare and this continues to gradually increase.



Get comfortable with MyMedicare as part of Medicare Reform

- MyMedicare voluntary registration is part of the government's response to the Strengthening Medicare Taskforce's recommendation to improve continuity of care, strengthen the relationship between the patients and their care team, and enable more integrated, person-centred care.
- MyMedicare formalises the relationship so that the whole health system will know who is the patients usual GP.
- It does not restrict patient access however simply acknowledges their main General Practice.
- Get comfortable with a simple and meaningful explanation of what MyMedicare registration means for your patients in the context of your own practice eg Some practices may offer priority services to MyMedicare registered patients such as scripts and referrals available by phone.

GPS IN A POD

<https://www.ddwmpnh.com.au/podcasts>



GPs IN A POD

Episode 46: Primary care reform - with Dr Walid Jammal and Dr Kirsten Meisinger

Episode 46 | 22nd October 2025 | 55 mins

If you missed our *How to make Medicare reform work for you and your patients* discussions in Toowoomba and Ipswich last week, catch up with this week's GPs in a Pod episode. Dr Jammal and Dr Meisinger (MD, [Read More](#) ↓

[Play This Episode](#)

[Disclaimer](#)

Also Available On



Explaining MyMedicare to patients

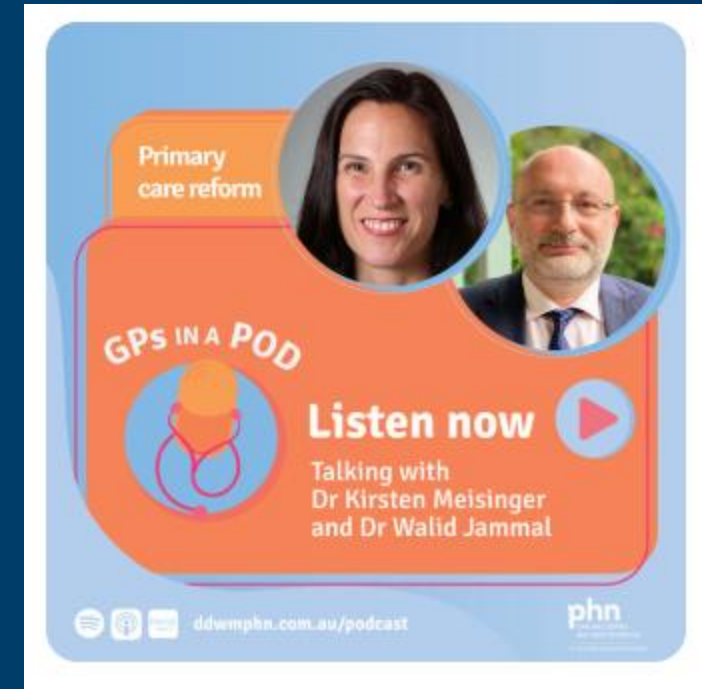
Practice specific explanation... but

“formalises the fact that you chose me (to be your GP) and this practice to be your primary gp practice”

In the future

“shared across the health system”

“gives you the patient access to longer phone consults with me/GP”



Upcoming Changes to bulk billing incentives in General Practice from 1 November 2025

2 distinct parts to it:

- 1. Eligibility for Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) bulk billing incentives (BBIs) will be expanded to all Medicare-eligible patients (currently only children under 16 and Commonwealth concession card holders are eligible).***
- Nothing has changed except expanded eligibility – If it was single BBI it stays single if it was triple BBI it stays triple
 - Neither the practice nor patients needs to be registered for MyMedicare or the Bulk Billing Practice Incentive Program (however please note the longer telehealth consultations are linked to MyMedicare)

Upcoming Changes to bulk billing incentives in General Practice from 1 November 2025

2. The bulk billing Incentive Program will be introduced

- Practices participating in BBPIP will receive an additional quarterly 12.5% incentive payment on MBS benefits paid from eligible services, split evenly between the GP and the practice.
- Participating practices must bulk bill every eligible service for every Medicare-eligible patient, to receive the BBPIP incentive payment. This incentive payment will be in addition to Medicare benefits and MBS BBIs (and calculated on base MBS rebate).

BBPIP Eligibility Requirements

- **Eligible Practice Types** - General Practice, Mobile Practice, Outreach Practice, Sole Provider Practice, Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHS), Aboriginal Medical Services (AMS), after Hours Services, Medical Deputising Services.
- All eligible providers (VR & Non VR GP's, Registrars and Locums) at the practice must participate and be linked to the practice in the organisation register.
- Practice must be registered for MyMedicare (note that practices that are not already MyMedicare registered and wish to participate are exempt from accreditation requirements).

and

- Register to participate in BBPIP via organisation register from 1 November.
- Practices participating in BBPIP must register as a fully bulk billing practice in Healthdirect Australia's National Health Services Directory (NHSD) and display Medicare Bulk Billing Practice signage on-site, to be eligible for the BBPIP payment.



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Links to resources for Healthdirect and Signage Requirements

Healthdirect

<https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-09/bulk-billing-practice-incentive-program-register-or-update-details-on-the-national-health-services-directory.pdf>

https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-09/updating_details_on_the_nhsd_-_fact_sheet.pdf

Signage

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/bulk-billing-practice-incentive-program-healthdirect-and-signage-requirements?language=en>

Consider extra signage to communicate clearly which services may still attract a private fee:

<https://www.cubiko.com.au/resources/bulk-billing-poster/>

Other Considerations

- 1st November is just a commencement date. You can opt in later, backdate if required up to 180 days, opt out again
- Initial Incentive period is November – December then quarterly thereafter (Jan-mar, Apr-Jun, Jul – Sept, Oct – Dec)

Where is your practice at:

- **Still deciding** – Utilise the Calculators on the Dept's website, encourage all of practice discussions including owners, GP's and clinical and administration staff. Think about what your messaging will be to patients in the interim.
- **Decided** – Register for BBPIP in the organisation register from 1st November. Follow NHSD and signage guidelines and use forecasting tools in HPOS.
- **Retaining mixed/private billing** – Have clear messaging to patients on value proposition for all staff to confidently communicate.

Other Considerations

Claiming Errors

Where an error in claiming occurs, a provider can make retrospective changes to previously lodged MBS claims as per existing Medicare processes (use the forecasting tool in HPOS).

Situations where a patient cannot be bulk billed

Administrative arrangements are in place for circumstances where a practice cannot bulk bill an eligible patient for an eligible service and continue to be eligible for BBPIP incentive payments, including where a practice:

- Cannot determine if a patient is eligible for Medicare, or
- Cannot bulk bill a patient as they do not have a Medicare Card Number, for example a newborn baby, newly arrived migrant or overseas visitor under a reciprocal healthcare agreement.

If a patient legitimately cannot be bulk billed at the time of the service, the practice may proceed as per their usual protocol for the service. Administrative arrangements are in place for BBPIP to ensure the practice and provider remain eligible for the incentive while legitimately charging of private fees in situations where a Medicare eligible patient cannot be bulk billed. Under these arrangements, eligible services that are privately billed to Medicare-eligible patients do not contribute to the 12.5% incentive payment amount.



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Bulk Billing Practice Incentive Program Resources

Bulk Billing Program Guidelines

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/bulk-billing-practice-incentive-program-program-guidelines?language=en>

BBPIP Calculator

[Bulk Billing Incentives Calculator: user guide for practice managers and GPs | Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing](#)

eLearning module for registration and forecasting payments

<https://hpe.servicesaustralia.gov.au/MODULES/MYMED/MYMEDM05/index.html>

Eligible Services for BBPIP

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/bulk-billing-practice-incentive-program-eligible-services>

Frequently Asked Questions

[Bulk Billing Practice Incentive Program: frequently asked questions for practices and providers | Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing](#)



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Cubiko Webinars

Ask the Department your questions: Bulk billing Q&A with DOHA and RACGP

<https://www.cubiko.com.au/resources/doha-racgp-qa/>

Should We Enrol? Making Sense of the New Incentives

<https://www.cubiko.com.au/resources/should-we-enrol-webinar/>

Staying the Course: What Bulk Billing Practices Need to Know

<https://www.cubiko.com.au/resources/what-bulk-billing-practices-need-to-know/>

Staying Private or Mixed Billing: Navigating the Changes with Confidence

<https://www.cubiko.com.au/resources/staying-private-or-mixed-billing-webinar/>

Making the Switch: Practical Steps for Enrolling

<https://www.cubiko.com.au/resources/making-the-switch-webinar/>

Countdown to November: Your Questions Answered

<https://www.cubiko.com.au/resources/bb-incentive-faq/>



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Better Access Mental Health Care Plan changes from 1 November 2025

From 1 November 2025, Medicare benefits will be payable for Better Access services where the mental health treatment plan, review of the mental health treatment plan and referrals has been undertaken by a GP or PMP at the general practice they are enrolled in for MyMedicare, or their usual medical practitioner.

- **A patient's usual medical practitioner is someone who has provided the majority of services to the person in the past 12 months or who is likely to provide the majority of services to the person in the following 12 months.** This includes other GPs and PMPs who are employed at the patient's usual medical practice.
- It is important to note that **patients can choose to see their usual medical practitioner irrespective of their existing MyMedicare registered status.** This is because patients may choose to seek mental health support through a separate GP or PMP for a range of reasons, and the changes on 1 November will not impact the ability for patients to continue to do this. For example - if a patient is registered with a MyMedicare practice but wishes to see a GP at another practice (e.g. a headspace GP, or a **GP with Mental Health Skills Training**) as they consider them to be their 'usual medical practitioner' for their mental health support needs, they can continue to do so.



Better Access Mental Health Care Plan changes from 1 November 2025

- Removal of MHTP review and mental health consultation items under the Medicare Benefit Schedule (MBS). GPs and PMPs will now be able to use **time-tiered professional (general attendance) items** to review, refer and/or provide ongoing mental health consultation for a patient's mental health.
- GPs and PMPs will be encouraged to refer patients who require at least a moderate level of support for Better Access treatment services and, where psychological intervention under the Better Access initiative is not appropriate, to consider other interventions or pathways.
- Aligning the MyMedicare and usual medical practitioner requirements for Mental Health Treatment Plan telehealth items with face-to-face services, with these services no longer exempt from the established clinical relationship rule. Better Access telehealth focussed psychological strategy treatment services provided by GPs and PMPs will continue to be exempt from the clinical relationship rule.

Better Access Mental Health Care Plan Resources

- [MBS Changes under the Better Access initiative from 1 November 2025](#)

Mental Health Treatment Plans after 1 Nov: What's Changing and How to Prepare

- <https://www.cubiko.com.au/resources/mental-health-treatment-plans-webinar/>



Further Support

Contact your Primary Care Liaison Officer (PCLO) directly

E-Mail practicesupport@ddwmpnh.com.au

Make sure you read the newly designed “In Practice” newsletter

In Practice is a monthly newsletter that provides the latest information and resources to support the day-to-day running of general practices across the region. It is sent out on alternating fortnights with Health Professionals News.

For links to current resources and news items related to MyMedicare:

<https://www.ddwmpnh.com.au/mymedicare>

bulkbillingpractice@health.gov.au



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Thank you

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