



# Access to the higher (\$7.85) bulk billing incentive for medical practitioners providing after-hours services in eligible areas – item 10992

## MBS Item 10992

Item 10992 commenced on 1 January 2005.

This item is intended to allow medical practitioners providing out-of-surgery after-hours services (eg. Medical Deputising Services and members of GP after-hours cooperatives) to claim the \$7.85 bulk billing incentive in certain circumstances, even though the medical practitioner's practice location is not based in an area covered by the higher incentive.

The existing bulk billing items (10990, 64990, 74990, 10991, 64991, 74991) will continue to operate in the same manner.

## Circumstances in which item 10992 can be claimed

Item 10992 operates in a similar manner to item 10991, but, the service attracting the bulk billing incentive must be an out-of-surgery after-hours attendance in an area eligible for the \$7.85 bulk billing incentive.

Item 10992 can only be claimed when **all** of the following conditions have been met:

- a. The service is an unREFERRED service;
- b. The service is provided to a person who is under the age of 16 or is a Commonwealth concession card holder;
- c. The person is not an admitted patient of a hospital or day-hospital facility;
- d. Both the service and item 10992 are bulk billed;
- e. The service is provided by a medical practitioner not based in one of the following areas but who provides an out-of-surgery after-hours attendance in one of the following areas:
  - i. a regional, rural or remote area; or
  - ii. Tasmania; or
  - iii. a geographical area included in any of the following SSD spatial units:
    - (A) Beaudesert Shire Part A
    - (B) Belconnen
    - (C) Darwin City
    - (D) Eastern Outer Melbourne
    - (E) East Metropolitan (Perth)
    - (F) Frankston City
    - (G) Gosford-Wyong
    - (H) Greater Geelong City Part A
    - (I) Gungahlin-Hall
    - (J) Ipswich City (Part in BSD)
    - (K) Litchfield Shire
    - (L) Melton-Wyndham
    - (M) Mornington Peninsula Shire
    - (N) Newcastle
    - (O) North Canberra
    - (P) Palmerston-East Arm
    - (Q) Pine Rivers Shire
    - (R) Queanbeyan
    - (S) South Canberra
    - (T) South Eastern Outer Melbourne

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- (U) Southern Adelaide
  - (V) South West Metropolitan (Perth)
  - (W) Thuringowa City Part A
  - (X) Townsville City Part A
  - (Y) Tuggeranong
  - (Z) Weston Creek-Stromlo
  - (ZA) Woden Valley
  - (ZB) Yarra Ranges Shire Part A; or
- iv. the geographical area included in the SLA spatial unit of Palm Island (AC).
- f. The service is provided at a location other than at consulting rooms, in association with one of the following after-hours items:

1	5043	5240
97	5046	5243
601	5049	5247
697	5063	5248
5003	5064	5260
5007	5067	5263
5010	5220	5265
5023	5223	5267
5026	5227	
5028	5228	

## Who can claim item 10992?

Provided that all of the requirements specified above are satisfied, this item can be claimed by any vocationally registered or non-vocationally registered GP.

## What happens if a medical practitioner claims item 10992 in conjunction with an item that is not listed?

Medicare Australia will reject claims for item 10992 if it is not claimed in conjunction with one of the approved out-of-surgery after-hours items listed above. If this occurs, the medical practitioner will need to re-submit a claim using a correct item (10990) in order to receive the \$5.15 payment. The re-submitted claim must be signed by the patient to assign the benefit to the medical practitioner.

Item 10992 cannot be claimed in conjunction with another bulk billing incentive item (eg 10990 or 10991) in respect of the same service.

## What happens if a medical practitioner claims item 10992 for a service that is not provided in an eligible area?

10992 can only be claimed when the service is provided in an area eligible for the \$7.85 bulk billing incentive. Medicare Australia will closely monitor the use of this item to ensure compliance, and will investigate suspected fraud.

## Further information

For further information about all of the bulk billing incentives, please refer to the Medicare Benefits Schedule Book of 1 November 2005.

There is also a separate fact sheet in relation to the bulk billing incentives, "Incentive payments to GPs who bulk bill concessional patients and children aged under 16 years". This fact sheet is available at [www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/medicareinitiatives](http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/medicareinitiatives)

For further information about claiming item 10992, including whether you are providing services in an eligible area, please call Medicare Australia on **132 150**.