

## Remuneration Rates for Fee-for-Service Visiting Medical Officers

**Summary** The purpose of this Information Bulletin is to set out changes that will apply to Remuneration under Fee-for-Service contracts for Visiting Medical Officers for services rendered on or after 1 July 2021.

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**Distributed to** Ministry of Health, Public Health System, Divisions of General Practice

**Audience** All Clinical Staff and Administrative Staff impacted by or with Authority over Policy Implementation

## REMUNERATION RATES FOR FEE-FOR-SERVICE VISITING MEDICAL OFFICERS

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this Information Bulletin is to provide information on changes that applies to remuneration under fee-for-service contracts for visiting medical officers for services rendered on or after 1 July 2021.

### KEY INFORMATION

Fee-for-Service remuneration now incorporates wages policy increases and applies to the fees in the Commonwealth Medical Benefits Schedule as at 30 June 2018 and without indexation adjustments arising from the phasing in of indexation from 1 July 2018.

The increases will be as follows:

| Period from | Increase | Cumulative Increase |
|-------------|----------|---------------------|
| 1 July 2021 | 2.5%     | 13.1408%            |

The remuneration increase is in lieu of and not in addition to the indexation of the medical benefits schedule item fees.

A further Information Bulletin will be issued in the future to cover remuneration from 1 July 2022.

#### NSW Health organisations must ensure

That services provided under the visiting medical officers service contracts are provided personally by the contracted visiting medical officer and are not sub-contracted out of performance by another practitioner

Split contracts in respect of services to be provided at the one facility are only offered in circumstances outlined in NSW Health Policy Directive *Visiting Practitioner Appointments in the NSW Public Health System* ([PD2016\\_052](#))

Note that this Information Bulletin does **not** apply to Visiting Medical Officers who are:

- remunerated under the arrangements set by the Rural Doctors' Settlement Package
- appointed as a pathologist, or
- appointed as a radiologist.

Chief Executives are accountable for ensuring that the remuneration authorised in the Information Bulletin, or otherwise specifically approved by the NSW Ministry of Health, is paid to visiting medical officers.

Any enquiries concerning this Information Bulletin should be directed to the human resources or medical administration personnel in the relevant NSW Health organisation. Only human resources or medical administration personnel are to directly contact the NSW Ministry of Health.

## ATTACHMENTS

1. Fee-for-Service Visiting Medical Officer Remuneration

# Fee-for-Service Visiting Medical Officer Remuneration

## 1. Fee-for-Service Visiting Medical Officer Remuneration Rates

- 1.1 The fee payable to fee-for-service Visiting Medical Officers for routine work is the relevant Commonwealth Medicare Benefits Schedule fee as at 30 June 2018 with an additional percentage amount payable in line with current NSW Government Wages Policy from 1 July 2016 (2.5%) with an agreed implementation date of 1 January 2017, 1 July 2017 (2.5%), 1 July 2018 (2.5%), 1 July 2019 (2.5%) and 1 July 2021 (2.5%).
- 1.2 To remove any doubt, the fee payable to fee-for-service Visiting Medical Officers for routine work will not incorporate the indexation to the Commonwealth Medicare Benefits Schedule fees from 1 July 2018 onwards. The increases in paragraph 1.1 above apply in lieu of and not in addition to the indexation of items in the Medicare Benefits Schedule.
- 1.3 The fee payable to fee-for-service Visiting Medical Officers where services are provided in situations where there is neither a Resident Medical Officer, nor a Registrar, nor a Career Medical Officer at a hospital on a 24 hour, 7 day week basis available as doctor of first contact, is 110% of the relevant fee as provided for at paragraph 1.1.
- 1.4 The fee payable to fee-for-service Visiting Medical Officers for emergency after hours medical service is 110% of the relevant fee as provided for at paragraph 1.1.

**(Emergency after hours medical services** are services initiated by or on behalf of patients whose medical conditions require immediate treatment, and where those services take place on a weekend, a public holiday, or other than between 8 am and 6 pm on a weekday not being a public holiday).

- 1.5 A flat daily fee of \$98.45 is payable to individual fee-for-service Visiting Medical Officer specialist surgeons and anaesthetists who are required by the relevant public health organisation to remain available for emergency surgery during December and January, or during the Easter holiday period, when access by the Visiting Medical Officer to operating theatres in the relevant hospital is available only for genuine emergency operations for a period of at least 7 consecutive days, including at least one day of which is a public holiday.

## 2. Regional Visiting Medical Officers

- 2.1 **Regional Visiting Medical Officer** means a Visiting Medical Officer who is appointed:
  - (a) for a continuous period of at least 12 months under a service contract in respect of one or more of the regional hospitals listed below; and
  - (b) under a service contract with terms and conditions that are in accordance with the standard arrangements approved by the NSW Ministry of Health.
- 2.2 The authorised fee payable to a fee for service regional Visiting Medical Officer:
  - (a) who provides an emergency after hours service at a regional hospital, and
  - (b) whose usual place of residence is within a 50 km radius of the regional hospital where the service is provided, is 120% of the relevant fee as provided for at paragraph 1.1.

### 3. **Funding**

Budget supplementation for the revised fees will be provided by the Ministry based on existing public health organisation budgets for Visiting Medical Officers.