



# Rural Bulk Billing Incentives Changes

Last updated - 17 December 2021

On 1 January 2022, Rural Bulk Billing Incentives (RBBI) will increase with remoteness based on the Modified Monash Model (MMM) classification of the location. This measure will help improve access to quality health services for rural and remote Australians by reducing out-of-pocket costs for patients and improving the viability of primary care services in the communities.

## What is changing?

From 1 January 2022, the Rural Bulk Billing Incentive (RBBI) will progressively increase from the current rate of 150% of the incentive in metropolitan areas as classified under the Modified Monash (MM) Model to:

- 160% of MM 3–4, large (population 15,000 to 50,000 residents) and medium (population 5,000 to 15,000) rural towns
- 170% in MM 5, small rural towns (population up to 5,000)
- 180% in MM 6, remote areas (population less than 1,000)
- 190% in MM 7, very remote areas (all other areas).

For more information on which health workforce classifications and incentives apply in different areas of Australia, visit the Department of Health’s [Health Workforce Locator](#).

## What the changes mean?

- All doctors who bulk bill, regardless of their location will continue to be eligible for a Bulk Billing Incentive. The changes relate to the higher Rural Bulk Billing Incentive only.
- Improving the value of RBBI in rural and remote medical practice will reduce out-of-pocket costs to patients and enhance the financial viability of practices in rural and remote areas.

## What does this mean for my practice?

### My practice is in MM3-MM7 location

New fees/benefits from 1 January 2022 in MM3 to MM7 locations:

Item type	MM 3-4		MM 5		MM 6		MM 7	
	MBS Item	Benefit	MBS Item	Benefit	MBS Item	Benefit	MBS Item	Benefit
<b>GP</b>	75855	\$10.50	75856	\$11.15	75857	\$11.80	75858	\$12.50
<b>Diagnostic Imaging</b>	64992	\$9.85	64993	\$10.45	64994	\$11.05	64995	\$12.15
<b>Pathology</b>	75861	\$9.85	75862	\$10.45	75863	\$11.05	75864	\$12.15



## My practice is in MM1-MM2 location

There are no changes for providers working in MM 1 locations who can access the normal bulk billing incentive, or for those working in MM 2 locations, who will continue to access the current rural bulk billing incentive amount (150% scaling).

However, from 1 January 2022, providers working in **MM 1 locations** will be able to claim a RBBI for after-hours item when providing a bulk billed after hours service in **MM 2-7 location**.

MBS Item	Benefit
10992	\$9.90

## Where can I find more information?

The full item descriptor(s) and information on other changes to the MBS can be found on the MBS Online website at [www.mbsonline.gov.au](http://www.mbsonline.gov.au). You can also subscribe to future MBS updates by visiting [MBS Online](#) and clicking 'Subscribe'.

The Department of Health provides an email advice service for providers seeking advice on interpretation of the MBS items and rules and the Health Insurance Act and associated regulations. If you have a query relating exclusively to interpretation of the Schedule, you should email [askMBS@health.gov.au](mailto:askMBS@health.gov.au).

Subscribe to '[News for Health Professionals](#)' on the Services Australia website and you will receive regular news highlights.

If you are seeking advice in relation to Medicare billing, claiming, payments, or obtaining a provider number, please go to the Health Professionals page on the Services Australia website or contact the Services Australia on the Provider Enquiry Line – 13 21 50.

The data file for software vendors is when available can be accessed via the [Downloads](#) page.

To read the Media Release by the Minister for Health and Ageing visit the [Department of Health website](#).

*Please note that the information provided is a general guide only. It is ultimately the responsibility of treating practitioners to use their professional judgment to determine the most clinically appropriate services to provide, and then to ensure that any services billed to Medicare fully meet the eligibility requirements outlined in the legislation.*

*This sheet is current as of the Last updated date shown above, and does not account for MBS changes since that date.*