

# WorkCover

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QUEENSLAND

## Medical Items Table of Costs

Effective 1 August 2022

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## Rules for use

This document outlines the maximum fees payable by workers' compensation insurers for medical service delivery to workers' compensation claimants in Queensland.

When invoicing for medical services, medical practitioners are expected to adhere to the MBS rules unless otherwise specified by WorkCover Queensland ('WorkCover') in this publication or the insurers' medical policies. WorkCover adopts the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) items, explanations, definitions, rules and conditions for services provided by medical practitioners.

Fees in this schedule are payable **only** to medical practitioners who meet the provider eligibility criteria outlined in the current Medical Benefits Schedule.

## Approved surgery processes

When undertaking a WorkCover approved surgery, there are some requirements be aware of:

### Provision of theatre notes

- You must attach a copy of the full and unedited theatre notes completed at the time of surgery to your invoice. This will avoid payment delays.

### Billing of 105 consultation fees on the day of surgery

- WorkCover applies and endorses the MBS framework in relation to the billing of 105 consultation fees on the day of surgery, which includes restrictions and limitations on billing.

Please see our [surgery guidelines](#) for information on applicable procedures and fees, and the Medical Tables of Costs below for the correct item numbers to use in the [request for surgery approval form](#).

The MBS restricts the billing of a 105 service when claimed in association with an item in group T8 with a schedule fee of \$312.15 or more. The restriction applies when the procedure is performed by the same practitioner, on the same patient, on the same day.

Further information about the limitation of items, certain attendances by specialists and consultant physicians is available on the MBS website.

## Multiple operation rule

The multiple operation rule applies if two or more operations, other than amputations, are being performed on a patient on the one occasion.

If two or more MBS items from Category 3, Group T8 are being performed on a patient on the one occasion, fees should be calculated using the multiple operation rule.

Items in Subgroup 12 of Group T8 (i.e. amputations) are not subject to this rule.

The multiple operation rule is applied as follows:

***Surgical procedures:***

Includes surgical procedures set out in MBS Group T8, Subgroups 1 to 11, 13, 16 and 17

- 100% for the item with the greatest WorkCover fee;
- plus 50% for the item with the next greatest WorkCover fee;
- plus 25% for each other item.

***Orthopaedic/Hand surgery procedures:***

Includes orthopaedic procedures set out in MBS Group T8, Subgroups 14 and 15

- 100% for the item with the greatest WorkCover fee;
- plus 75% for the item with the next greatest WorkCover fee;
- plus 75% for each other item.

Where a medical practitioner performs both surgical and orthopaedic procedures on the one occasion, each rule applies in its entirety to the relevant items. This will result in two items with fees at 100%.

The following table illustrates how the multi operation rule will be applied to multiple item numbers:

MBS SUB-GROUP	100% OF FEE	ORTHOPAEDIC/HAND SURGERY 100 / 75 / 75%	SURGICAL 100 / 50 / 25%
1 to 11 (Items 30001 – 44136)			✓
12 – Amputations (Items 44325 – 44376)	✓		
13 – Plastic and Recon Surgery (Items 45000 – 45996)			✓
14 – Hand Surgery (Items 46300 – 46534)		✓	
15 – Orthopaedic (Items 47000 – 50658)		✓	
16 – Radiofrequency and Microwave Tissue Ablation			✓
17 – Spinal Surgery (Items 51011 – 51171)			✓

### Assistance at operations

A flat 20% surgical assistant's fee is payable when a surgical assistant is employed for Therapeutic Procedures Category 3,

- Subgroup 14 (Hand Surgery),
- Subgroup 15 (Orthopaedic) and,
- Subgroup 17 (Spinal Surgery) of the Medical Benefits Schedule (MBS).

Therefore, payment for surgical assistants is limited to the MBS item numbers that specify eligibility for a surgical assistant benefit.

Where surgical assistance is provided at two or more operations performed on a patient on the one occasion the multiple operation rule is applied to determine the surgeon's fee.

For further details refer to Section T9 'Assistance at Operations' of the MBS.

### Perioperative Nurse Surgical Assistants (PNSA)

WorkCover recognises that Perioperative Nurse Surgical Assistants (PNSA) is filling a gap where there is a shortage of medical assistances. As a result, a 15% assistant's fee is payable based on the above rules for 'Assistance at operations' for PNSA who are a member of the Australian Association of Nurse Surgical Assistants (AANSA Inc.)

### Surgery approval and invoices

WorkCover Queensland requires the [Request for surgery approval form](#) to be completed in full.

If the surgical procedure changes during the operation and subsequently the item codes, please contact the insurer to discuss. Prior to any surgical invoice being paid, the operation notes must be received.

### Aftercare

All conditions detailed in the explanatory notes of the Medicare Benefits Schedule apply when treating injured workers. This includes the conditions surrounding any billing for routine post-operative care which is considered to be inclusive of the operation provided. If a patient requires additional services which are considered to be 'not normal aftercare' (NNAC), then the account should be endorsed with NNAC to enable separate payment for those services.

### Other services

Dental, nursing and allied health services for compensable injuries are covered under the relevant table of costs for those services.

## Evidence based recommendations

WorkCover support the recommendations published by Choosing Wisely Australia and developed by Australia's peak colleges, societies and associations ([www.choosingwisely.org.au/recommendations](http://www.choosingwisely.org.au/recommendations))

This includes the recent joint publication from RACP and AFOEM regarding low value clinical practices, specifically:

- do not certify a patient as totally unfit for work unless the work absence is clinically necessary and the patient is unfit for suitable alternative or restricted duties
- do not order X-rays or other imaging for acute nonspecific low back pain, unless there are red flags or other clinical reasons to suspect serious spinal pathology
- do not prescribe opiates for the treatment of acute or chronic pain without assessing the patient's clinical condition, potential side effects, alternative analgesic options, work status, and capacity to perform safety critical activities such as driving a motor vehicle.

## Medical Fees

Please refer to the [excel spreadsheet on our website](#) for the list of item numbers and the relevant fees applicable.

## Further information

You can access more information by visiting [www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/service-providers](http://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/service-providers) or contacting WorkCover on free call 1300 362 128.

## Appendix A: derived fee descriptions

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION
4	Professional attendance by a general practitioner (other than attendance at consulting rooms or a residential aged care facility or a service to which another item in the table applies) that requires a short patient history and, if necessary, limited examination and management-an attendance on one or more patients at one place on one occasion-each patient.
24	Professional attendance by a general practitioner (other than attendance at consulting rooms or a residential aged care facility or a service to which another item in the table applies), lasting less than 20 minutes and including any of the following that are clinically relevant: (a) taking a patient history; (b) performing a clinical examination; (c) arranging any necessary investigation; (d) implementing a management plan; (e) providing appropriate preventive health care; for one or more health-related issues, with appropriate documentation-an attendance on one or more patients at one place on one occasion-each patient.
37	Professional attendance by a general practitioner (other than attendance at consulting rooms or a residential aged care facility or a service to which another item in the table applies), lasting at least 20 minutes and including any of the following that are clinically relevant: (a) taking a detailed patient history; (b) performing a clinical examination; (c) arranging any necessary investigation; (d) implementing a management plan; (e) providing appropriate preventive health care; for one or more health-related issues, with appropriate documentation-an attendance on one or more patients at one place on one occasion-each patient.
47	Professional attendance by a general practitioner (other than attendance at consulting rooms or a residential aged care facility or a service to which another item in the table applies), lasting at least 40 minutes and including any of the following that are clinically relevant: (a) taking an extensive patient history; (b) performing a clinical examination; (c) arranging any necessary investigation; (d) implementing a management plan; (e) providing appropriate preventive health care; for one or more health-related issues, with appropriate documentation-an attendance on one or more patients at one place on one occasion-each patient.
58	Professional attendance (other than an attendance at consulting rooms or a residential aged care facility or a service to which any other item in the table applies), not more than 5 minutes in duration-an attendance on one or more patients at one place on one occasion-each patient, by: (a) a medical practitioner (who is not a general practitioner); or (b) a Group A1 disqualified general practitioner, as defined in the dictionary of the General Medical Services Table (GMST).
59	Professional attendance (other than an attendance at consulting rooms or a residential aged care facility or a service to which any other item in the table applies) of more than 5 minutes in duration but not more than 25 minutes-an attendance on one or more patients at one place on one occasion-each patient, by: (a) a medical practitioner (who is not a general practitioner); or (b) a Group A1 disqualified general practitioner, as defined in the dictionary of the General Medical Services Table (GMST).
60	Professional attendance (other than an attendance at consulting rooms or a residential aged care facility or a service to which any other item in the table applies) of more than 25 minutes in duration but not more than 45 minutes-an attendance on one or more patients at one place on one occasion-each patient, by: (a) a medical practitioner (who is not a general practitioner); or (b) a Group A1 disqualified general practitioner, as defined in the dictionary of the General Medical Services Table (GMST).

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION
65	Professional attendance (other than an attendance at consulting rooms or a residential aged care facility or a service to which any other item in the table applies) of more than 45 minutes in duration-an attendance on one or more patients at one place on one occasion-each patient, by: (a) a medical practitioner (who is not a general practitioner); or (b) a Group A1 disqualified general practitioner, as defined in the dictionary of the General Medical Services Table (GMST).
181	Professional attendance (other than an attendance at consulting rooms or a residential aged care facility or a service to which any other item in the table applies), not more than 5 minutes in duration an attendance on one or more patients at one place on one occasion each patient, by a medical practitioner in an eligible area.
187	Professional attendance (other than an attendance at consulting rooms or a residential aged care facility or a service to which any other item in the table applies) of more than 5 minutes in duration but not more than 25 minutes an attendance on one or more patients at one place on one occasion each patient, by a medical practitioner in an eligible area.
191	Professional attendance (other than an attendance at consulting rooms or a residential aged care facility or a service to which any other item in the table applies) of more than 25 minutes in duration but not more than 45 minutes an attendance on one or more patients at one place on one occasion each patient, by a medical practitioner in an eligible area.
195	Professional attendance by a general practitioner who is a qualified medical acupuncturist, on one or more patients at a hospital, lasting less than 20 minutes and including any of the following that are clinically relevant: (a) taking a patient history; (b) performing a clinical examination; (c) arranging any necessary investigation; (d) implementing a management plan; (e) providing appropriate preventive health care; for one or more health-related issues, with appropriate documentation, at which acupuncture is performed by the qualified medical acupuncturist by the application of stimuli on or through the skin by any means, including any consultation on the same occasion and another attendance on the same day related to the condition for which the acupuncture is performed.
206	Professional attendance (other than an attendance at consulting rooms or a residential aged care facility or a service to which any other item in the table applies) of more than 45 minutes in duration an attendance on one or more patients at one place on one occasion each patient, by a medical practitioner in an eligible area.
260	Professional attendance at a place other than consulting rooms of more than 5 minutes, but not more than 25 minutes in duration by a medical practitioner in an eligible area, that completes the minimum requirements for a cycle of care of a patient with established diabetes mellitus.
262	Professional attendance at a place other than consulting rooms of more than 25 minutes but not more than 45 minutes, in duration by a medical practitioner in an eligible area, that completes the minimum requirements for a cycle of care of a patient with established diabetes mellitus.
264	Professional attendance at a place other than consulting rooms of more than 45 minutes in duration by a medical practitioner in an eligible area, that completes the minimum requirements for a cycle of care of a patient with established diabetes mellitus.
266	Professional attendance at a place other than consulting rooms of more than 5 minutes, but not more than 25 minutes in duration by a medical practitioner in an eligible area, that completes the minimum requirements of the Asthma Cycle of Care.

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION
269	Professional attendance at a place other than consulting rooms of more than 25 minutes, but not more than 45 minutes in duration by a medical practitioner in an eligible area, that completes the minimum requirements of the Asthma Cycle of Care.
271	Professional attendance at a place other than consulting rooms of more than 45 minutes in duration by a medical practitioner in an eligible area, that completes the minimum requirements of the Asthma Cycle of Care.
285	Professional attendance at a place other than consulting rooms by a medical practitioner, for providing focussed psychological strategies for assessed mental disorders by a medical practitioner registered with the Chief Executive Medicare as meeting the credentialing requirements for provision of this service, and lasting at least 30 minutes, but less than 40 minutes.
287	Professional attendance at a place other than consulting rooms by a medical practitioner, for providing focussed psychological strategies for assessed mental disorders by a medical practitioner registered with the Chief Executive Medicare as meeting the credentialing requirements for provision of this service, and lasting at least 40 minutes.
414	LEVEL A Professional attendance by a public health physician in the practice of his or her specialty of public health medicine other than at consulting rooms for an obvious problem characterised by the straightforward nature of the task that requires a short patient history and, if required, limited examination and management.
415	LEVEL B Professional attendance by a public health physician in the practice of his or her specialty of public health medicine other than at consulting rooms, lasting less than 20 minutes, including any of the following that are clinically relevant: a)taking a patient history; b)performing a clinical examination; c)arranging any necessary investigation; d)implementing a management plan; e)providing appropriate preventive health care; in relation to 1 or more health-related issues, with appropriate documentation.
416	LEVEL C Professional attendance by a public health physician in the practice of his or her specialty of public health medicine other than at consulting rooms lasting at least 20 minutes, including any of the following that are clinically relevant: a)taking a detailed patient history; b)performing a clinical examination; c)arranging any necessary investigation; d)implementing a management plan; e)providing appropriate preventive health care; in relation to 1 or more health-related issues, with appropriate documentation.
417	LEVEL D Professional attendance by a public health physician in the practice of his or her specialty of public health medicine other than at consulting rooms lasting at least 40 minutes, including any of the following that are clinically relevant: a)taking an extensive patient history; b)performing a clinical examination; c)arranging any necessary investigation; d)implementing a management plan; e)providing appropriate preventive health care; in relation to 1 or more health-related issues, with appropriate documentation.
761	Professional attendance by a medical practitioner (other than attendance at consulting rooms, a hospital or a residential aged care facility or a service to which another item in the table applies), lasting not more than 5 minutes an attendance on one or more patients on one occasion each patient.
763	Professional attendance by a medical practitioner (other than attendance at consulting rooms, a hospital or a residential aged care facility or a service to which another item in the table applies), lasting more than 5 minutes, but not more than 25 minutes an attendance on one or more patients on one occasion each patient,

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION
766	Professional attendance by a medical practitioner (other than attendance at consulting rooms, a hospital or a residential aged care facility or a service to which another item in the table applies), lasting more than 25 minutes, but not more than 45 minutes an attendance on one or more patients on one occasion each patient.
769	Professional attendance by a medical practitioner (other than attendance at consulting rooms, a hospital or a residential aged care facility or a service to which another item in the table applies), lasting more than 45 minutes an attendance on one or more patients on one occasion each patient.
788	Professional attendance (other than a service to which another item applies) at a residential aged care facility (other than a professional attendance at a self-contained unit) or professional attendance at consulting rooms situated within such a complex if the patient is accommodated in the residential aged care facility (other than accommodation in a self-contained unit) of more than 25 minutes in duration but not more than 45 minutes by a medical practitioner an attendance on one or more patients at one residential aged care facility on one occasion each patient.
789	Professional attendance (other than a service to which another item applies) at a residential aged care facility (other than a professional attendance at a self-contained unit) or professional attendance at consulting rooms situated within such a complex if the patient is accommodated in the residential aged care facility (other than accommodation in a self-contained unit) of more than 45 minutes in duration by a medical practitioner an attendance on one or more patients at one residential aged care facility on one occasion each patient.
2631	Professional attendance at a place other than consulting rooms of more than 5 minutes, but not more than 25 minutes in duration by a medical practitioner who practises in general practice (other than a general practitioner), that completes the minimum requirements for a cycle of care of a patient with established diabetes mellitus.
2633	Professional attendance at a place other than consulting rooms of more than 25 minutes but not more than 45 minutes, in duration by a medical practitioner who practises in general practice (other than a general practitioner), that completes the minimum requirements for a cycle of care of a patient with established diabetes mellitus.
2635	Professional attendance at a place other than consulting rooms of more than 45 minutes in duration by a medical practitioner who practises in general practice (other than a general practitioner), that completes the minimum requirements for a cycle of care of a patient with established diabetes mellitus.
2723	Professional attendance at a place other than consulting rooms by a general practitioner, for providing focussed psychological strategies for assessed mental disorders by a general practitioner registered with the Chief Executive Medicare as meeting the credentialling requirements for provision of this service, and lasting at least 30 minutes, but less than 40 minutes.
2727	Professional attendance at a place other than consulting rooms by a general practitioner, for providing focussed psychological strategies for assessed mental disorders by a general practitioner registered with the Chief Executive Medicare as meeting the credentialling requirements for provision of this service, and lasting at least 40 minutes.
5003	Professional attendance by a general practitioner (other than attendance at consulting rooms, a hospital or a residential aged care facility or a service to which another item in the table applies) that requires a short patient history and, if necessary, limited examination and management-an attendance on one or more patients on one occasion-each patient.

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION
5023	Professional attendance by a general practitioner (other than attendance at consulting rooms, a hospital or a residential aged care facility or a service to which another item in the table applies), lasting less than 20 minutes and including any of the following that are clinically relevant: (a) taking a patient history; (b) performing a clinical examination; (c) arranging any necessary investigation; (d) implementing a management plan; (e) providing appropriate preventive health care; for one or more health-related issues, with appropriate documentation-an attendance on one or more patients on one occasion-each patient.
5043	Professional attendance by a general practitioner (other than attendance at consulting rooms, a hospital or a residential aged care facility or a service to which another item in the table applies), lasting at least 20 minutes and including any of the following that are clinically relevant: (a) taking a detailed patient history; (b) performing a clinical examination; (c) arranging any necessary investigation; (d) implementing a management plan; (e) providing appropriate preventive health care; for one or more health-related issues, with appropriate documentation-an attendance on one or more patients on one occasion-each patient.
5063	Professional attendance by a general practitioner (other than attendance at consulting rooms, a hospital or a residential aged care facility or a service to which another item in the table applies), lasting at least 40 minutes and including any of the following that are clinically relevant: (a) taking an extensive patient history; (b) performing a clinical examination; (c) arranging any necessary investigation; (d) implementing a management plan; (e) providing appropriate preventive health care; for one or more health-related issues, with appropriate documentation-an attendance on one or more patients on one occasion-each patient.
5220	Professional attendance by a medical practitioner who is not a general practitioner (other than attendance at consulting rooms, a hospital or a residential aged care facility or a service to which another item in the table applies), lasting not more than 5 minutes-an attendance on one or more patients on one occasion-each patient.
5223	Professional attendance by a medical practitioner who is not a general practitioner (other than attendance at consulting rooms, a hospital or a residential aged care facility or a service to which another item in the table applies), lasting more than 5 minutes, but not more than 25 minutes-an attendance on one or more patients on one occasion-each patient.
5227	Professional attendance by a medical practitioner who is not a general practitioner (other than attendance at consulting rooms, a hospital or a residential aged care facility or a service to which another item in the table applies), lasting more than 25 minutes, but not more than 45 minutes-an attendance on one or more patients on one occasion-each patient.
5228	Professional attendance by a medical practitioner who is not a general practitioner (other than attendance at consulting rooms, a hospital or a residential aged care facility or a service to which another item in the table applies), lasting more than 45 minutes-an attendance on one or more patients on one occasion-each patient.
15003	Radiotherapy, superficial (including treatment with x-rays, radium rays or other radioactive substances), not being a service to which another item in this Group applies - each attendance at which fractionated treatment is given - 2 or more fields up to a maximum of 5 additional fields.
18219	Intrathecal, combined spinal-epidural or epidural infusion of a therapeutic substance, initial injection or commencement of, if continuous attendance by the medical practitioner extends beyond the first hour (Anaes.)

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION
18227	Intrathecal, combined spinal-epidural or epidural infusion of a therapeutic substance, initial injection or commencement of, where continuous attendance by a medical practitioner extends beyond the first hour, for a patient in labour, where the service is provided in the after-hours period, being the period from 8pm to 8am on any weekday, or any time on a Saturday, a Sunday or a public holiday.
25025	Anaesthesia, if the patient requires immediate treatment without which there would be significant threat to life or body part and if more than 50% of the service time occurs between 8 pm to 8 am on any weekday, or on a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday (0 basic units).
25030	Assistance in the management of anaesthesia, if the patient requires immediate treatment without which there would be significant threat to life or body part and if more than 50% of the service time occurs between 8 pm to 8 am on any weekday, or on a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday (0 basic units).
25050	Perfusion, if the patient requires immediate treatment without which there would be significant threat to life or body part and if more than 50% of the service time occurs between 8 pm to 8 am on any weekday, or on a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday. (0 basic units).
25200	ASSISTANCE IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF ANAESTHESIA on a patient in imminent danger of death requiring continuous life-saving emergency treatment, to the exclusion of all other patients (5 basic units).
25205	ASSISTANCE IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF ELECTIVE ANAESTHESIA where: (i)the patient has complex airway problems; or (ii)the patient is a neonate or a complex paediatric case; or (iii)there is anticipated to be massive blood loss (greater than 50% of blood volume) during the procedure; or (iv)the patient is critically ill, with multiple organ failure; or (v)where the anaesthesia time exceeds 6 hours and the assistance is provided to the exclusion of all other patients (5 basic units).
30001	OPERATIVE PROCEDURE, not being a service to which any other item in this Group applies, being a service to which an item in this Group would have applied had the procedure not been discontinued on medical grounds.
31340	Muscle, bone or cartilage, excision of one or more of, if clinically indicated, and if: (a) the specimen excised is sent for histological confirmation; and (b) a malignant tumour of skin covered by item 31000, 31001, 31002, 31003, 31004, 31005, 31356, 31358, 31359, 31361, 31363, 31365, 31367, 31369, 31371, 31372, 31373, 31374, 31375 or 31376 is excised (Anaes.).
44376	Amputation stump, reamputation of, to provide adequate skin and muscle cover (Anaes.) (Assist.).
51303	Assistance at any operation identified by the word "Assist." for which the fee exceeds \$580.95 or at a series of operations identified by the word "Assist." for which the aggregate fee exceeds \$580.95.
51309	Assistance at a series or combination of operations that include (Assist.) and assistance at a birth involving Caesarean section.
51312	Assistance at any interventional obstetric procedure covered by items 16606, 16609, 16612, 16615 and 16627.
51803	Assistance by an approved dental practitioner in the practice of oral and maxillofacial surgery at any operation specified in an item that includes '(Assist.)' for which the fee exceeds \$580.95 or at a series or combination of operations specified in items that include '(Assist.)' if the aggregate fee exceeds \$580.95.

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