

Budget 2023-24

This information is accurate as of 9 May 2023.

Strengthening Medicare

This measure will:

- continue to invest in the Health Delivery Modernisation program
- continue the Healthcare Identifiers (HI) Service and the National Authentication Service for Health (NASH) program for an additional 4 years
- establish an additional 10 Single Employer Model (SEM) trials
- create and implement new items in the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS)
- implement a new Chronic Wound Consumables Scheme
- implement a new model of care for people with complex chronic disease who frequently go to hospital
- make improvements to the Workforce Incentives Program (WIP).

Health Delivery Modernisation

The measure includes new initiatives to digitise health services and better connect health data. It delivers on recommendations made in the Strengthening Medicare Taskforce report to improve services for users and health professionals.

The Health Professional Online Services (HPOS) system will be upgraded for health professionals, allowing them to access real time assessments of Pharmaceutical Benefit Scheme (PBS) safety net claims, and enhancing the find a patient function for pharmacies and hospitals.

Medicare Online Account and Express Plus Medicare mobile app enhancements will improve visibility of submitted Medicare claims and provide greater confirmation of paid claims.

The Voluntary Patient Registration system will be enhanced. This will allow other types of health organisations and health professions to participate in the MyMedicare system. MyMedicare is a proposed new system for patients to enrol with a patient's usual GP practice to get more rounded care.

National Digital Health

The measure will support National Digital Health, including the HI Service as a foundation of digital health in Australia which enables accurate identification of patients, healthcare providers and healthcare organisations. This is crucial in transferring health information between systems and with other digital health programs.

Services Australia will continue to operate the HI Service and National Authentication for Health (NASH) program, including:

- assigning healthcare identifiers
- disclosing healthcare identifiers
- maintaining the Healthcare Provider Directory
- maintaining the current system and infrastructure
- managing NASH Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) certificates
- providing helpdesk services.

Single Employer Model Trial

The measure will establish an additional 10 Single Employer Model (SEM) trials across Australia to increase the attractiveness of general practice as a career for junior doctors.

This will build on the 10 SEM trials announced in the October 2022-23 Budget and 2 existing trials in Murrumbidgee, NSW, and Riverland Mallee Coorong, SA.

Services Australia will support the SEM trials by consolidating existing flags for registering training placements to one. This will streamline administration for participating practices and health professionals.

Medicare Benefits Schedule

The measure will:

- create and implement up to 14 new Bulk Billing Incentive (BBI) items. This will mirror the structure of the existing BBI items but with higher MBS fees when co-claimed with certain consultation items in general practice
- 7 of these new BBIs will be able to be co-claimed with certain telehealth items. The patient will have to be registered through MyMedicare and receive the service from the practice at which they are registered
- establish new Level C and Level D general attendance telephone consultation MBS items for patients registered through MyMedicare. These new MBS items will be available where the service is provided at the practice where the patient is registered.

Chronic Wound Consumables Scheme

The measure will establish a Chronic Wound Consumable Scheme. The scheme will cover the cost of wound consumables used by eligible people with chronic wounds and diabetes. Eligible people are those over 65 years of age, or over 50 years of age for Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Australians.

Wrap Around Primary Care for Frequent Hospital Users

This measure will offer a new model of care for people with complex chronic disease who frequently go to hospital. People with complex chronic disease registered for MyMedicare will be able to get personalised care from their regular GP and practice. The measure will improve a patient's access to primary care, their experience and health outcomes. It will also reduce the burden on hospital emergency departments.

Workforce Incentives Program

The measure will increase people's access to multidisciplinary care at general practices by providing a funding boost to the [Workforce Incentive Program](#) (WIP). This will make it more affordable for practices to employ or contract a range of health professionals. The measure will also ensure these health professionals are supported to work their full scope of practice and contribute meaningfully to team-based care. Increased payments for the WIP will commence in August 2023.

This measure is led by the Department of Health and Aged Care. Services Australia has been allocated a total of \$163.6 million to support this measure.

This measure is not subject to legislation passing.

Who this measure affects

This measure affects all Australians who access Medicare and health services, including:

- junior doctors who participate in the SEM trials
- general practices and people with chronic disease who frequently attend hospital
- eligible people with chronic wounds and diabetes
- eligible patients and health professionals providing these MBS services and utilising HIs.

When this starts and finishes

This measure will begin on 1 July 2023 and will be ongoing.