



Addendum - Rural Procedural Grants Program

Updated August 2020

Addendum to [2021 Rural Procedural Grants Program Guidelines](#)

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department has issued a number of temporary arrangements for the Rural Procedural Grants Program to provide additional flexibility and support to rural procedural GPs so that they can continue to access subsidised CPD activities during the period of social restriction. These arrangements will be available until 30 June 2021.

Please note that from 1 January 2021, new program guidelines will come into force for this program. The new guidelines include revised eligibility criteria that limit access to the program to vocationally registered GPs practising in MM3 to 7 regions.

Support for GPs during the COVID-19 pandemic

The revised arrangements in response to COVID-19 are as follows:

- 1) Allow current RPGP participants to claim for a limited number of procedural/emergency medicine CPD activities delivered online, at a rate of \$1,000 per day. Courses must be approved by the GP Colleges as CPD activities and include an interactive component and/or assessment. All other eligibility criteria still apply.
- 2) Payment of claims for online CPD activities can be made to the relevant GP College from 1 July 2020. These claims can be for eligible online CPD undertaken by eligible GPs from the commencement of movement restrictions due to COVID-19.
- 3) As of 1 July 2020 GPs who are registered in the Emergency Medicine component can claim an additional 3 days of emergency mental health CPD per financial year. Online training in emergency mental health will be eligible for a \$1,000 per day grant up to \$3,000 and is not payable for activities prior to 1 July 2020.



Summary of COVID-19 arrangements

| RPGP Component | Amount claimable | Period of COVID-19 restriction | After the cessation of COVID-19 restrictions |
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| <p>Component 1 – Procedural GPs Practising in Surgery, Anaesthetics and/or Obstetrics</p> <p>This component is designed to assist eligible GPs with the cost of attending CPD activities to maintain and/or enhance their procedural skills in surgery, anaesthetics and/or obstetrics.</p> | <p>A grant of \$2,000 per day for a maximum of 10 days per financial year is available. GPs are eligible to access the payment multiple times per financial year up to this maximum.</p> | <p>CPD activities delivered online will be eligible between Jul 2020 and 30 June 2021 at \$1,000 per day, for a maximum of 10 days.</p> <p>Online courses should have a minimum of four hours of course time delivery to count as a day.</p> <p>Colleges to approve all online CPD activities.</p> <p>From 1 January 2021 new Guidelines and eligibility changes come into effect, limiting access to VR GPs and those practising in MM3-7.</p> | <p>Online training is no longer eligible.</p> <p>Grant of \$2,000 per day applies during this period to activities meeting the eligibility criteria in 2021 guidelines.</p> <p>Participants can claim up to a total of \$20,000 per financial year.</p> |

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| <p>Component 2 – GPs Practising Emergency Medicine</p> <p>This component is designed to assist eligible GPs with the cost of attending CPD activities to maintain and/or enhance their emergency medicine skills.</p> | <p>Emergency Medicine</p> <p>A grant of \$2,000 per day for a maximum of 3 days per financial year is available. GPs are eligible to access the payment multiple times per financial year up to this maximum.</p> | <p>CPD activities delivered online will be eligible between Jul 2020 and 30 June 2021 at \$1,000 per day, for a maximum of 3 days.</p> <p>Online courses should have a minimum of four hours of course time delivery to count as a day.</p> <p>Colleges to approve all online CPD activities.</p> <p>From 1 January 2021 new Guidelines and eligibility changes come into effect, limiting access to VR GPs and those practising in MM3-7.</p> | <p>Online training is no longer eligible.</p> <p>Grant of \$2,000 per day applies during this period to activities meeting the eligibility criteria in updated program guidelines.</p> <p>Participants can claim up to a total of \$6,000 per financial year.</p> |
| | <p>Emergency Mental Health Services</p> <p>A grant of \$2,000 per day for an additional 3 days per financial year to support CPD in emergency mental health, if the GP who is registered in the Emergency Medicine component and is also responsible for providing care in respect of emergency mental health services/crisis intervention in patients presenting with acute mental health issues.</p> | <p>Emergency Mental Health grant is available from 1 July 2020 – Maximum \$6,000.</p> <p>CPD activities delivered online will be eligible between Jul2020 and 30 June 2021 at \$1,000 per day, for a maximum of 3 days.</p> <p>Online courses should have a minimum of four hours of course time delivery to count as a day.</p> <p>Colleges to approve all online CPD activities.</p> <p>From 1 January 2021 new Guidelines and eligibility changes come into effect, limiting access to VR GPs and those practising in MM3-7.</p> | <p>Online training is no longer eligible.</p> <p>Grant of \$2,000 per day applies during this period to activities meeting the eligibility criteria in updated program guidelines.</p> <p>Participants can claim up to \$6,000 per financial year, totalling \$12,000 for Component 2.</p> |