



# Practitioner Review Program

## The 80/20 rule

In order to address consistent high volumes of rendered services, a deeming provision known as the 80/20 rule was introduced in the *Health Insurance (Professional Services Review) Regulations 1999*. The Regulations specify that a general practitioner (GP) or other medical practitioner is deemed to have practised inappropriately if he or she has rendered 80 or more professional attendances on each of 20 or more days in a 12 month period. GP or other medical practitioner professional attendances include the following items as listed in the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS):

A1 General practitioner attendances to which no other item applies	A2 Other non-referred attendances to which no other item applies
A5 Prolonged attendances to which no other item applies	A6 Group therapy
A7 Acupuncture	A9 Contact lenses - attendances
A11 Urgent attendances after-hours	A13 Public health physician attendances to which no other item applies
A14 Health assessments	A15 Multidisciplinary care plans and multidisciplinary case conferences
A16 Medical practitioner (sports physician) attendances to which no other item applies	A17 Medication management review
A18 General practitioner attendances associated with Practice Incentive Payments (PIP)	A19 Other non-referred attendances associated with PIP incentive payments to which no other item applies
A20 GP mental health care	A21 Medical practitioner (emergency physician) attendances to which no other item applies
A22 General practitioner after-hours attendances to which no other item applies	A23 Other non-referred after-hours attendances to which no other item applies

**Note:** this rule is based on the number of professional attendances per day, this may not be the same as the number of patients seen in a day.

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### How is the 80/20 rule monitored?

Medicare Australia routinely monitors the practice profile of all practitioners to identify those who are approaching or have exceeded the 80/20 level of servicing.

### What happens if I am approaching the 80/20 rule?

You may receive a letter informing you that your servicing pattern is approaching the prescribed level of 80/20 and that you need to consider reviewing your daily servicing.

You may be considered for an interview under Medicare Australia's Practitioner Review Program. Medicare Australia will review your practice profile and identify other concerns in addition to your level of servicing. A Medicare Australia Compliance Medical Officer may contact you to arrange an interview to discuss your practice profile.

### What happens if I breach the 80/20 rule?

You will start in the Practitioner Review Program and will have an interview with a Medicare Australia Compliance Medical Officer. Medicare Australia will consider available information and Medicare Australia's delegate will participate in the review. The delegate may make a request to the Director of Professional Services Review (PSR) to review your provision of services.

### If I breach the 80/20 rule, will Medicare Australia automatically request the Director of PSR to review my provision of services?

No, you will be given the opportunity to respond to our concerns before we consider making a request to the Director of PSR.

### For more information

Online [www.medicareaustralia.gov.au](http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au) then **For health professionals > Doing business with Medicare Australia > Compliance > Practitioner Review Program.**

[www.psr.gov.au](http://www.psr.gov.au)

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