

# Approval of Medical Practitioners to supply Pharmaceutical Benefits

## Information for applicants

A medical practitioner may be granted approval to supply pharmaceutical benefits in an area in which an approved pharmacist is unable to supply a convenient and efficient pharmaceutical service.

In order to apply for such an approval in respect of an area in which you are currently practising, or in which you intend to practise, you should complete the attached application form '*Application for Approval to Supply Pharmaceutical Benefits by a Registered Medical Practitioner*'. In conjunction with the application form, you should provide the following additional information to assist Medicare Australia in the consideration of your application.

### Reason for Applying

It would be helpful if you would include a written justification as to why you consider an approval to supply pharmaceutical benefits is necessary and why the existing doctor's bag supplies would not suffice.

### Area Covered by Application

An explanation of the area and the level of the population to be covered by the approval, particularly where more than one centre or locality is involved, would be useful. This could also include details of any specific geographical or climatic features, which may impact on access to the area; for instance, regular flooding of access roads. If a map of the area is available, this could also be supplied.

### Practise Hours

Details of the hours/days in which you intend to practise in the area(s) concerned should be provided.

### Existing Pharmaceutical Services

Consideration of your application will be assisted if you can provide details of the current supply arrangements (if any) in the area concerned. As well as distance to the nearest pharmacy, information could be provided on how the local population currently obtains pharmaceutical supplies. Existing local transport services and/or delivery services from existing pharmacies may be relevant.

**Note:** You should also contact the relevant State Pharmacy Board or Council requirements for the granting of an approval to dispense pharmaceuticals.