



Training for Rural and Remote Procedural GPs Program Guidelines February 2006

Introduction

The Training for Rural and Remote Procedural GPs Program was announced as part of the Strengthening Medicare package to provide financial assistance to GPs in rural and remote areas to access relevant training activities in order to assist them in maintaining or updating their skills.

Please note that The Training for Rural and Remote Procedural GPs Program is a separate initiative to the Practice Incentives Program (PIP) Procedural Payment, which is for accredited practices providing anaesthetics; surgery; and/or obstetric services in rural and remote Australia. Further information is available on the Medicare Australia website: www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/providers/incentives_allowances/pip.htm or by phoning 1800 222 032.

Key Principles of the Program

The Program supports GPs in rural and remote areas to attend relevant training, which is focused on both skills maintenance and upskilling. Support is provided in the form of grant payments which are designed to assist with the cost of attending training, including course costs, locum relief and travel expenses. Grants are calculated on the number of days of training.

The Program has two components. It provides support for:

- 1) procedural GPs practising in surgery, anaesthetics and/or obstetrics in rural and remote areas (RRMA 3-7); and
- 2) GPs practising emergency medicine in rural and remote areas (RRMA 4-7).

GPs providing services in rural and remote areas but residing primarily in urban areas (eg locums, RFDS doctors) may be eligible for the Program.

How to Apply

To be considered for either component or both components of the Program, rural and remote GPs must apply to either the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) or the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) using the attached application form. Application forms are also available on the Medicare Australia website: www.medicareaustralia.gov.au

GPs who meet the eligibility criteria for both grant payments are able to apply for both components of the Program on the same application form.

GPs will be advised of the outcome of their application for registration by the College to which they apply. The College will notify Medicare Australia of successful applicants. A register of eligible GPs will be maintained by Medicare Australia. Applications will be treated as confidential and stored securely.

Eligible Training

Components 1 and 2 of the grant are available for upskilling and skills maintenance, covering both formal (eg courses) and informal (eg clinical attachments) delivery modes.

ACRRM and the RACGP, in consultation with relevant external agencies, assess the eligibility of training for inclusion in the Program. This information is available to GPs.

GPs are encouraged to contact ACRRM or RACGP prior to registering for training to confirm whether the proposed educational activity is eligible.

Strengthening
Medicare

Component 1: Grant for Procedural GPs Practising in Surgery, Anaesthetics and/or Obstetrics

GP Eligibility

This component is available to procedural GPs in RRMA 3-7.

For the purposes of this component, the definition of a procedural GP is:

“A rural or remote procedural general practitioner provides non-referred services normally in a hospital theatre, maternity setting or other appropriately equipped facilities, that in urban areas are typically the province of a specific referral based specialty. Most commonly this refers to the fields of surgery, anaesthetics and obstetrics.

Elements essential to procedural medicine include the use of appropriately equipped facilities and resources and involve a team of health professionals and the active engagement of the practitioner in an appropriate skills maintenance program in the relevant procedural areas.”

Under this definition, procedural GPs and medical officers undertaking rural hospital-based work may be eligible.

This component is intended only for procedural GPs who:

- have already attained qualifications in a procedural field/s and/or;
- have recognition as a procedural GP in a rural hospital; and
- require on-going training to maintain their skill level.

GPs will be required to provide evidence of their recognition as a current provider of procedural services when registering for this component.

GPs who undertake only minor procedural work in their rooms are not classified as procedural GPs for this component.

This component is not intended for GPs seeking to attend training to become a procedural GP.

Value of the Grant

The grant payment will be calculated on a maximum of \$15,000 per GP for two weeks (10 days) upskilling or skills maintenance activities. The total grant payable will be calculated on a rate of \$1,500 per day.

GPs are eligible to access the payment multiple times per financial year, with a maximum total value of \$15,000 in any one financial year.

Component 2: Grant for GPs Practising Emergency Medicine

As of 1 February 2006, GPs practising emergency medicine in rural and remote areas are able to access grant payments under this Program. Payments can be backdated to include upskilling or skills maintenance activities undertaken in January 2006.

GP Eligibility

This component is available to GPs in RRMA 4-7.

For the purposes of this component, the definition of a rural and remote emergency medicine GP is:

“A rural and remote practitioner who provides emergency medicine cover for non-referred services in an accident and emergency facility which is available for 24 hour triaging (hospital or other appropriately equipped facility – which provides a minimum equipment list of, but not restricted to: intubation, cannulation and defibrillation equipment), rapid diagnosis and management of the acute and urgent aspects of illness and injury such as those typically brought to the door by ambulance.”

It is recognised that in some remote communities, these services can be substituted at times by remote triage and retrieval.

Emergency medicine GPs and medical officers undertaking rural hospital-based work can be eligible for this component.

This component is intended for emergency medicine GPs who:

- have already attained the qualifications, clinical privileges or experience and necessary skills to practice emergency medicine; and
- currently hold an appointment in emergency medicine at the facility nominated; and
- provide evidence of regular involvement in a facility as outlined above; and
- require on-going training to maintain their skill level.

This component is not intended for those GPs seeking to attend training to attain skills in emergency medicine.

GP registrars with independent, unsupervised rights to practice emergency medicine are eligible for this incentive.

GPs are required to provide evidence of their recognition as a current provider of emergency medicine services when registering for this component.

Value of Grant

The emergency medicine grant payment is calculated on a maximum of \$3,000 per GP per financial year for 2 days of upskilling or skills maintenance activities. The total grant payable will be based on a rate of \$1,500 per day.

Administration of the Program

The administration of both components of the Program is jointly managed by ACRRM and the RACGP.

ACRRM and the RACGP are responsible for assessing the eligibility of GPs and of training.

Medicare Australia is responsible for maintaining a register of eligible GPs and for making grant payments to GPs on completion of eligible training.

Payment of Grants

Eligible GPs receive a grant payment once Medicare Australia receives evidence from ACRRM or the RACGP of the GP's completion of eligible training. If registered for both components of the Program, the GP must indicate which grant they are claiming.

Grant payments to GPs are made directly to a bank account nominated by the GP. Medicare Australia also forwards a statement to the GP detailing each payment made.

Program Contact Details

Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine

GPO Box 2507
BRISBANE QLD 4001
Phone: 1800 223 226

OR

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners

National Rural Faculty
15 Gover Street
NORTH ADELAIDE SA 5006
Phone: 1800 636 764

Training for Rural and Remote Procedural GPs Program Application to Register

This Program pays grants to rural and remote GPs to assist with the costs associated with attending upskilling and skills maintenance activities, including the cost of the required locum relief. The Program has two components:

- 1) grant payments to procedural GPs practising in surgery, anaesthetics and/or obstetrics, and
- 2) grant payments to GPs practising emergency medicine (for activities undertaken from 1 January 2006 only).

If you are applying for **Component 1: Grant for procedural GPs practising in surgery, anaesthetics and/or obstetrics** please complete Parts A, B and D of the form.

If you are applying for **Component 2: Grant for GPs practising in emergency medicine**, please complete Parts A, C and D of the form.

If you are applying for **both** grants please complete all parts of the form.

This application form is to be read and completed in conjunction with the Training for Rural and Remote Procedural GPs Guidelines – February 2006. On completion please return this form with relevant documentation to either:

Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine

GPO BOX 2507
BRISBANE QLD 4001
Fax: (07) 3105 8299

OR

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners

National Rural Faculty
15 Gover Street
NORTH ADELAIDE SA 5006
Fax: (08) 8267 8359

ACRRM and the RACGP will forward the completed application forms of successful applicants to Medicare Australia for registration purposes.

The information contained in this completed application form will be treated confidentially and stored securely.

PART A

All applicants are required to complete this section.

GP details

Name:	
Provider No:	
Practice Name:	
Practice Address:	
Practice Postal Address	
Day Time Phone:	
Mobile No:	Fax No:
Email Address	

Grant payment should be made into the following account:

Account Name:	
Bank:	Branch:
BSB:	Account No:

Note: GPs may direct the funds to either a personal or a practice account.

PART B

Note: If you have already been approved for procedural medicine you do not need to apply again – please go to Part C.

I am applying for the procedural GP eligibility (*Component 1*).

Tick box (you may tick more than one)

<input type="checkbox"/> Surgery	<input type="checkbox"/> Anaesthetics	<input type="checkbox"/> Obstetrics
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Documentation Required:

My recognition as a current provider of procedural services as defined in the guidelines is demonstrated by the attached documentation (eg letter of appointment/ hospital contract/ evidence of current practice/clinical privileging/certification of scope of practice).

PART C

Tick box

<input type="checkbox"/> I am applying for emergency medicine eligibility (<i>Component 2</i>).

Documentation Required:

My recognition as a current provider of emergency medicine services as defined in the guidelines is demonstrated by the attached documentation (eg letter of appointment/ hospital contract/ evidence of current practice/clinical privileging/certification of scope of practice).

PART D

All applicants are required to complete this section.

I understand that Medicare Australia, the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) and the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) may:

- access information regarding the training I have undertaken as part of this Program;
- provide reports regarding the training I attend; and
- provide information (which may include identifying information) relating to this application to the Department of Health and Ageing for statistical, evaluation, research and/or policy development purposes.

I understand that it may be necessary for these organisations to discuss the above issues with one another.

Certification

I certify that the statements made in this application are, to the best of my knowledge, true and correct.

Name

(Please use BLOCK Letters)

Tick box

I have attached evidence of my recognition as a current provider of relevant services as requested.

Date of Birth

Gender

Male

Female

I am a Registrar

Yes

No

(For Registrars Only: The end date of my training is:)

I am happy for the College to contact me regarding my procedural area.

Yes

No

Tick box

I have attached evidence of my recognition as a current provider of relevant services as requested.

Signature

Date

You will be advised of your eligibility for this program. If you require further information please contact either ACRRM, on 1800 223 226 or RACGP, on 1800 636 764.

OFFICE USE ONLY

RRMA

Applicant is already registered for:

Surgery

Anaesthetics

Obstetrics