

# 2021 workers compensation rates for general practitioners

## – effective 1 January 2021



### State Insurance Regulatory Authority (SIRA) payment classification system information – professional medical services.

This document summarises commonly used codes by general practitioners.

All medical practitioners treating workers compensation patients should refer to the *2021 Workers Compensation (Medical Practitioner Fees) Order* for further information.

Payment classification code	Type of service	Fee	Service description	
AA010	Level A consultation	\$41.50	<p>The rate for consultation fees applies to services provided on or after 1 January 2021. GST should not be charged on the consultation fee.</p> <p>Australian Medical Association (AMA) codes must be used for all consultations and medical treatment services, apart from consultations via telehealth.</p> <p>Telehealth means delivery of consultations via video or telephone. Consultations would be inclusive of any electronic communication to support the delivery of the treatment service. Telehealth consultations must be consented to by the worker and practitioner.</p> <p>Practitioners are responsible for delivering telehealth consultations in accordance with the principles of professional conduct and the relevant professional and practice guidelines to ensure that all care is taken to ensure the safety, appropriateness and effectiveness of the service.</p> <p>Medical Practitioners are to bill for Telehealth consultations using the same AMA List item number normally billed for a face to face consultation, with the addition of a 'T' as a suffix to the item number e.g. AA020T (Level B consultation delivered via telehealth) versus AA020 (Level B consultation delivered face to face). The fee payable remains the same. No additional fee (e.g. facility fees) can be charged in relation to the consultation.</p> <p>For further information on the criteria for Level A, B, C and D consultation services, please refer to the <i>AMA List of Medical Services and Fees (1 November 2020)</i>.</p> <p>Out-of-hours fees are only payable for emergency attendance and emergency treatment of a worker at a time when the practice is not usually open.</p>	
AA010T	Level A consultation via telehealth	\$41.50		
AA020	Level B consultation	\$84		
AA020T	Level B consultation via telehealth	\$84		
AA030	Level C consultation	\$154		
AA030T	Level C consultation via telehealth	\$154		
AA040	Level D consultation	\$235		
AA040T	Level D consultation via telehealth	\$235		
WCO001	Certificate of capacity	\$48.40 (plus GST)		<p><b>Initial</b> certificate of capacity.</p> <p>This fee is payable only once per claim for completion of the <u>initial certificate of capacity</u>.</p> <p>The certificate of capacity can be downloaded from the SIRA website.</p>

Payment classification code	Type of service	Fee	Service description
WCO002	Services provided in addition to usual medical management	\$24.70/5 min (plus GST)	<p>This fee remunerates any time spent by the medical practitioner (in addition to usual medical management) to assist the worker to recover at/return to work.</p> <p>These rates may cover discussions with employers, case conferencing (see definition below), visits to worksites, time spent reviewing injury management or recovery at/return to work plans, and providing additional reports (when requested and pre-approved by the insurer).</p> <p>Invoices should reflect the time taken (to the nearest five minutes) to deliver the service.</p>
	Case conference	\$24.70/5 min (plus GST)	<p>Case conference means a face-to-face meeting, video conference or teleconference with any or all of the following parties – worker (including a support person, if requested by the worker), employer, workplace rehabilitation provider, insurer or other treatment practitioner/s delivering services to the worker. Discussion must seek to clarify the worker's capacity for work, barriers to return to work and strategies to overcome these barriers via an open forum to ensure parties are aligned with respect to expectations and direction of the worker's recovery at work/return to suitable employment. If the discussion you have is with the worker and their chosen support person, it must include another third party to be considered a Case conference. Discussions between the worker's nominated treating doctor and other treating practitioners (e.g. allied health practitioners, medical specialists/surgeons) relating to treatment are considered a normal interaction between referring doctor and practitioner. This is not to be charged as a Case conference.</p>
WCO004	Other medical items	Cost price	Bandages, dressings, etc.
PHS001	Pharmaceutical services	Cost price	Payments for pharmaceutical services.
WCO005	Medical records	<p>\$60 for electronic medical records.</p> <p>\$38 for hard copy medical records of up to 33 pages, then \$1.40 for each additional page.</p> <p>These fees include postage and handling.</p>	<p>Fee for providing copies of medical records (including the treating general practitioner, specialist or consulting surgeon's notes and reports). Where medical records are maintained electronically, a flat fee applies for provision of all requested clinical records held by the medical practice.</p> <p>A medical practitioner/practice should not provide or bill for hard copy medical records if they are maintained electronically.</p> <p>Fees for production of medical records are not inclusive of GST.</p>

#### Disclaimer

This publication may contain information that relates to the regulation of workers compensation insurance, motor accident third party (CTP) insurance and home building compensation in NSW. It may include details of some of your obligations under the various schemes that the State Insurance Regulatory Authority (SIRA) administers. However, to ensure you comply with your legal obligations you must refer to the appropriate legislation as currently in force. Up to date legislation can be found at the NSW Legislation website [www.legislation.nsw.gov.au](http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au).

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