

VMO ESSENTIALS

VMOs and On-Call Obligations in the Public Hospital System

Q. Are VMOs required to participate in an on-call roster?

A. Yes, both the Sessional Determination and Fee-for-Service Determination require VMOs to participate in the on-call roster. For Fee-for-Service VMOs, the on-call roster is referred to under the Determination as the emergency after hours roster.

Q. Will I be paid an allowance when I am rostered on-call?

A. Sessional VMOs are entitled to be paid an on-call allowance when rostered on-call by the Local Health District. Fee-for-service VMOs do not receive an on-call allowance.

Q. What is a call-back?

A. Under the Sessional Determination, a call-back is when a VMO is called to attend the hospital, whether or not rostered on-call, at a time when the VMO would not otherwise have attended the hospital, in response to a request from the relevant hospital to attend for the purpose of providing services.
Under Fee-for-Service arrangements, call backs are referred to as the provision of emergency after-hours medical services. These are services initiated by the Hospital for patients whose medical conditions requirement immediate treatment on a weekend, public holiday or otherwise than between 8.00am and 6.00pm on weekday.

Q. Is there a minimum amount of time payable for a call-back?

A. Yes, for Sessional VMOs the minimum payment is one hour. The minimum time payable is not applicable to Fee-for-Service VMOs.

Q. Am I entitled to claim for travel?

A. A Sessional VMO is entitled to claim for 20 minutes travel time to and from the hospital. There is no travel allowance paid to Fee-for-Service VMOs.

Q. What records need to be made and kept?

A. A VMO needs to record the date, name and / or MRN of the patient and the service provided (in the case of Fee-for-Service VMO), or the duration of the attendance (if a Sessional VMO), the name and / or designation of the person who requested the service and must make an entry in the medical record of the attendance and / or treatment provided.

Q. What are sessional VMO's paid for a call back?

A. Where a sessional VMO is called back to duty they are paid additional remuneration with loadings as follows:

- If the call back occurs between the hours of 8 am to 6 pm Monday to Friday inclusive - at the VMO's ordinary hourly rate plus 10%;
- If the call-back occurs outside the hours of 8 am to 6 pm Monday to Friday inclusive - at the VMO's ordinary hourly rate plus 25%;
- If the call-back occurs on a public holiday - at the VMO's ordinary hourly rate plus 50%.

Q. What is Fee-for-Service VMO paid for the provision of an emergency after-hours service?

A. Fee-for-service VMOs are remunerated at 110% of the relevant MBS fee and if provided at a regional hospital you may be entitled to be remunerated at 120% of the MBS fee.



If you have any questions please contact our Workplace Relations Team on 02 9439 8822 or email workplace@amansw.com.au