



Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing

Access to Medicare for providers affected by the Australian flood disaster

All health professionals with a Medicare provider number, who have had their practices destroyed or badly damaged as a result of the floods, may continue to use the provider number for that location to provide Medicare services from another temporary location on a short term basis. The health professional can continue to claim Medicare benefits as their eligibility permits. In the long term we expect that the health professional either returns to the practice when repaired or rebuilt. If they do not return to their registered practice they will need to apply for a provider number for that location and close the provider number for the destroyed practice.

For doctors who have restricted access to Medicare billing under sections 19AA and 19AB, the approved arrangements at a location that has been destroyed or damaged can be carried out at a temporary location.

Access to Medicare for health professionals assisting in the Australian flood disaster

Providers who wish to assist in affected communities on a short term basis will be able to access the Medicare benefits arrangements for their services. Medicare Australia will advise the provider to commence at the new location on the date specified in their request for a Provider Number. If the provider is subject to the Medicare provider number restrictions, their application will be forwarded to the Department for an urgent approval for a provider number.

All applications will be treated as urgent priorities by the Department and Medicare Australia, and access to Medicare benefits arrangements will be available to providers assisting in affected communities from the affected start dates.