

7. Allied health

There are many health professionals who are especially trained to treat particular health problems. These are called 'allied health' professionals. Allied health professionals can work in hospitals, medical centres, clinics and in private practice. Some of their services are covered by Medicare. It is best to check before you make an appointment. Many health insurance companies provide cover for allied health services.

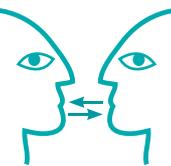
	<p>Audiology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ audiologists specialise in the assessment, prevention and non-medical management of hearing impairment and associated disorders of communication ■ they conduct hearing assessments in babies, children and adults, and are involved in rehabilitation programs ■ audiologists work in hospitals, community services and privately. If you have a concern about your hearing or your child's hearing, ask your family doctor (GP) about a referral ■ Audiological Society of Australia website: www.audiology.asn.au
	<p>Nutrition and dietetics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ dietitians help people understand the relationship between food and health so they can make healthier dietary choices ■ dietitians and nutritionists can work in public hospitals, community health centres and also privately ■ Medicare covers some services under the Enhanced Primary Care Program. Ask your family doctor (GP) about this ■ Dietitian Association of Australia website: www.daa.asn.au
	<p>Occupational therapy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ occupational therapists help people to participate in daily life. People may have limited ability to do certain things due to illness, disability or injury ■ occupational therapists can teach new techniques, provide equipment which gives the person independence to do things, reduce environmental barriers and help people to adapt to their environment ■ Medicare covers some services under the Enhanced Primary Care Program. Ask your family doctor (GP) about this ■ they work in hospitals, community health centres and also privately ■ Australian Association of Occupational Therapists website: www.ausot.com.au
	<p>Optometry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ optometrists conduct eye and vision examinations, prescribe glasses (spectacles) and contact lenses and treat many types of eye disorders ■ optometrists do not perform eye surgery but may prescribe medicine to treat eye diseases ■ most optometrists work privately and can be found in most shopping centres and suburban settings. Medicare covers an eye examination every two years unless there is a clinical reason why you require a more frequent appointment ■ Queensland Health provides free spectacles to certain eligible people through the Spectacle Supply Scheme. Ask your optometrist if you are eligible for this scheme and how to apply ■ Optometrists Association Australia website: www.optometrists.asn.au

This factsheet is part of a series of 10. The complete set comprises:

1. Health system in Queensland
2. Seeing a doctor
3. Medicines
4. Queensland hospitals
5. Community health centres
6. Dental services
7. Allied health
8. Staying healthy and preventing illness
9. Health and support services for specific groups
10. You and the health service system

continued over . . .

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	<p>Physiotherapy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ physiotherapists assess, diagnose and treat people with movement problems. They generally assess and treat joint, muscle and nerve injuries ■ physiotherapists use techniques including: soft tissue massage, exercise and stretches, joint mobilisation and manipulation, hot packs, ice and ultrasound ■ in public services, physiotherapists are available in hospitals and community health centres. You will need to check with your local hospital or community health centre to see if you are eligible to receive treatment from these services ■ Medicare covers some services under the Enhanced Primary Care Program. Ask your family doctor about this ■ if you see a physiotherapist privately, you do not need a letter of referral from your family doctor ■ Australian Physiotherapy Association website: http://apa.advsol.com.au/physio_and_health/home.cfm
	<p>Podiatry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ podiatrists provide advice on foot health, assess and diagnose foot problems/disease, and treat foot problems ■ many work privately and therefore you will have to pay them directly ■ Medicare covers some services under the Enhanced Primary Care Program. Ask your family doctor (GP) about this ■ in public health services they are involved in diabetic screening and foot care; wound care; vascular clinics and other functions ■ Australasian Podiatry Council website: www.apodc.com.au
	<p>Psychology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ psychologists help people to reduce distress and to enhance emotional wellbeing ■ they can assist people who are having difficulty controlling their emotions, thinking and behaviour ■ many work privately and therefore you will have to pay them directly ■ Medicare covers some services under the Enhanced Primary Care Program. Ask your family doctor (GP) about this ■ Australian Psychological Society website: www.psychology.org.au
	<p>Social work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ social workers can assist in dealing with emotional and practical issues that are causing distress. They can also link people with community support networks and groups ■ social workers work in hospitals, community health centres, neighbourhood centres, settlement and other non-government services. Social workers may also work privately ■ Medicare covers some services under the Enhanced Primary Care Program. Ask your family doctor (GP) about this ■ Australian Association of Social Workers website: www.aasw.asn.au
	<p>Speech pathology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ speech pathologists diagnose, manage and treat children and adults who are unable to communicate effectively or who have difficulty with feeding and swallowing ■ speech pathologists work in hospitals and community health settings and also privately. Medicare covers some speech pathology services for people with chronic conditions and complex needs. If you are eligible you will need a referral from your family doctor ■ Speech Pathology Australia website: www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au