

Visiting medical specialist (VMS) outreach package

Policy Number: B47 (QH-POL-258)

Publication date: June 2020

Purpose: To outline arrangements for visiting medical specialists (VMSs) providing services to rural areas.

Application: This policy applies to all VMSs working for Queensland Health.

Delegation: The 'delegate' is as listed in the Department of Health Human Resource (HR) Delegations Manual, or Hospital and Health Services Human Resource (HR) Delegations Manual, as amended from time to time.

Legislative or other authority:

- Terms and Conditions of Employment, Queensland Government Visiting Medical Officers 2011
- Health Employment Directive No. 8/14: Visiting Medical Officers – Employment Framework

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SCHEDULE ONE Prescribed rates effective 1 January 2014



1 Policy statement

The following package arrangement for outreach work was developed following an approach by Australian Medical Association Queensland (AMAQ) in cases when a VMS works away from their home location.

A Hospital and Health Service (HHS) may choose to offer the availability of an outreach package.

1.1 Eligibility

Outreach occurs when the VMS travels away from the centre where the VMS practice is located and the hospital where appointment is held, to carry out services at rural hospitals. For example, a VMS who holds appointment at a Brisbane hospital and travels to Bundaberg within Wide Bay HHS for a day (or days) to carry out services is considered to be eligible for the outreach package arrangements.

To be eligible for the package a VMS is to:

- hold appointment as a VMS, under a VMO contract, at a Queensland public hospital
- undertake the outreach work as the primary activity for which appointment as a VMS is held, or an extension of their VMS appointment.

Any new services under this arrangement are to be consistent with the outpatient policy, including potential Medicare billing if consistent with the current Australian Health Care Agreement.

1.2 Package conditions

A VMS performing services under this outreach package for Queensland Health is to accept the following conditions:

- Services in the outreach location for which the VMS is being paid under an outreach package, are only to be performed for the Queensland Health facility where the outreach service is being provided.
- A VMS wishing to expand their private practice in an area where they are also performing an outreach service for Queensland Health is to be required to personally arrange and fund travel and accommodation when undertaking any tasks directed at such expansion.
- When a VMS is providing outreach services as well as private practice services in the same area, the VMS is not entitled to any travel or accommodation benefits arranged or paid for by Queensland Health for the services pursuant to an outreach package or private practice services provided at the outreach location.

1.3 Package allowance

The outreach package takes into consideration the costs associated with a VMS not attending to their private practice. The amounts of this package vary depending on the classification level of the VMS and the time that outreach services are undertaken.

The package amount is:

- calculated on the basis of being on duty for the full day
- an all inclusive package including allowances for travel time, on call, overtime and call backs.

Schedule One outlines the prescribed rates payable to VMSs undertaking outreach arrangements. These rates are to be implemented into the payroll system.

History:

June 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy application amended as a result of changes to the Hospital and Health Boards (Changes to Prescribed Services) Amendment Regulation 2019.
August 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy reinstated to enable entitlement to visiting medical officers on high income guarantee contracts effective 4 August 2014
December 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy repealed as information available in the Terms and Conditions of Employment, Queensland Government Visiting Medical Officers 2011
June 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed as a result of the HR policy consolidation project.
Previous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ER Circular 04/08 - Visiting Medical Specialist (VMS) Outreach Package

**Visiting Medical Specialist (VMS) Outreach Package – Schedule One
Prescribed rates effective 1 January 2014**

	Visiting Specialist – 1 st year	Visiting Specialist – 2 nd year	Visiting Specialist – 3 rd year	Visiting Specialist – 4th year	Visiting Senior Specialist
VMO Package A: 1 full day and night	\$ 3,513.20	\$ 3,628.40	\$ 3,740.90	\$ 3,831.90	\$4,152.20
VMO Package B: 2 full days and night	\$ 6,096.70	\$ 6,182.60	\$ 6,497.80	\$ 6,780.50	\$7,222.50
VMO Package C: 2 full days and 2 nights	\$ 7,026.50	\$ 7,256.80	\$ 7,481.90	\$ 7,663.70	\$8,304.30

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