

Interim private practice arrangement

Q. Why is Health Employment Directive (HED 9/14) 'Interim Private Practice – Senior Medical Officers' (SMOs) being issued?

A. Due to the existing private practice arrangements ending on 30 June 2014 and the new arrangements not coming into effect until 4 August 2014, an interim arrangement has to be established so that SMOs can continue to engage in private patient activities and be appropriately remunerated.

Q. Who will be covered by HED 9/14?

A. All SMOs who have a Right of Private Practice (RoPP) contract as at 30 June 2014 and all new SMOs who have a private practice option stated in their appointment letter.

Q. Will I be covered by HED 9/14 if I haven't signed a Senior Health Employee Contract (SHEC)?

A. All SMOs who currently have a RoPP contract will be covered by HED 9/14 for the interim period even if you do not intend to sign a SHEC.

Q. Will the interim arrangement have the same terms as my RoPP contract?

A. The interim arrangement essentially mirrors the 13/14 arrangements however rather than having to sign individual contracts for the short period, the existing RoPP contracts and associated policies have been consolidated into this new HED.

Q. What will the administration and facility fees be for Option B and R SMOs?

A. During the life of the interim agreement (1 July 2014 - 3 August 2014 inclusive), you will be charged the administration and facility fees stated in the Queensland Health Fees & Charges Register. This is an updated list of the administration and facility fees previously listed in HR policy B48. From 4 August 2014 the new service fees will apply.

The Queensland Health Fees & Charges Register is available at:

http://qheps.health.qld.gov.au/financenetwork/revenue/web_pages/resources.htm#F

Q. What is the difference between service fees and administration fees and facility charges?

A. Service fees will replace administration and facility fees effective 4 August 2014. Both are listed in detail in the Queensland Health Fees and Charges Register.

Q. What will happen with the threshold limit?

A. From 1 July 2014, the threshold level stated in the Queensland Health Fees & Charges Register will apply for the 2014/2015 financial year. All threshold levels will be pro-rated for SMOs working part-time and the time worked during the financial year.

Q. I am currently an Option R SMO receiving a 50% discount on all facility and admin fees charged. Will this continue during the interim arrangement?

A. Yes.

Q. I am an Option B SMO. I expect to generate \$45,000 in gross billings during the interim period, for which I estimate \$18,000 in facility and admin fees and \$1,800 in GST. From 4 August, my SHEC private practice arrangement is Granted Retention. What will my threshold be for the interim period?

A. Given your SHEC is a continuation of the retention model, the threshold level for you will be \$210,000 for the financial year 14/15. However, if you were reverting to the Assignment arrangement from 4 July, then the \$210,000 threshold would be pro-rated based on the days of the interim period i.e. \$210,000 divided into 365 days, multiplied by the 34 days the interim period is for = \$19,562.

Q. I am currently engaged under Option P. I am informed that the incentive payment will not be continuing under the SHEC from 4 August 2014. What happens to billings relating to a date of service prior to 4 August 2014, but receipted after 4 August 2014?

A. You will continue to receive the incentive payment for all services provided prior to 4 August 2014, regardless of when these services are actually receipted.

Q. Do I need to respond to my HHS indicating I accept or do not accept the interim private practice arrangement?

A. You do not need to respond to accept the interim arrangement. By carrying on engaging in private patient activities at the HHS, and or receiving supplementary benefit payments you accept that the interim arrangement is in effect.

Q. What happens if I don't accept the interim private practice arrangement?

A. If you do not wish to accept the interim arrangement you must notify your HHS in writing prior to 1 July 2014. You will not be able to engage in any private patient activities until your SHEC commences on 4 August 2014 (provided your SHEC includes a granted private practice arrangement). In addition, you will not receive any private practice supplementary benefits during the interim period in the case that you do not accept the arrangement.

Q. Can I change my options during the interim arrangement period?

A. No, the interim arrangement is linked to your RoPP option as at 30 June 2014 not the private practice option you have chosen in your SHEC.

Q. Am I still covered under HR policy I2 'Indemnity for Queensland Health Medical Practitioners' for the interim private practice arrangement?

A. Yes, you will be indemnified in accordance with HR policy I2.