

Publicly funded services

Department of Health Guideline

QH-GDL-336-1:2015

1. Statement

This Guideline identifies services that will and will not be purchased by Queensland Health.

2. Scope

This Guideline provides information for all Queensland Health employees, contractors and consultants purchasing services on behalf of Queensland Health. This includes Hospital and Health Services purchasing public services from private providers.

Compliance with this guideline is not mandatory, but sound reasoning must exist for departing from the recommended principles within a guideline.

3. Requirements

3.1. In-scope services

3.1.1. The Deputy Director-General, Healthcare Purchasing and System Performance, will ensure services that are in scope to be purchased (according to the Clinical Services Capability Framework v3.2) as specified in the Service Agreements. Regardless of whether the service would attract a Medicare Benefit, the following services are deemed to be in scope:

- 3.1.1.1. Services undertaken and funded as part of a research project approved by an appropriately constituted Human Research Ethics Committee.
- 3.1.1.2. Allied health, nursing and midwifery services consistent with the role of the facility (designated using the Clinical Services Capability Framework v3.2), and for which there is an established evidence base.
- 3.1.1.3. Transplantation and burns procedures undertaken by Statewide services.

3.2. Out-of-scope services

- 3.2.1. The Deputy Director-General Health Healthcare Purchasing and System Performance Division will not purchase out-of-scope services from any public or private provider of health services. This supports the Queensland Health strategy of driving improved value in a publicly funded health system with finite resources.
- 3.2.2. Services that are out-of-scope include any medical service that, if undertaken in a private hospital or other private facility, would not attract a Medicare Benefit from Medicare Australia. These services are not

to be undertaken in Queensland Health facilities or subsidised or funded by Queensland Health.

- 3.2.3. Cosmetic medical and surgical procedures are operations and other procedures that revise or change the appearance, colour, texture or position of normal bodily features with the sole intention of achieving what the patient perceives to be a more desirable appearance or boosting the patient's self-esteem.
- 3.2.4. Cosmetic procedures are deemed to be out of scope for funding unless clinically indicated, e.g., due to birth disorders, trauma, burns, or disease.
- 3.2.5. Specific procedures not publicly funded will be listed in the Out-of-Scope Services Purchasing Specification Sheet.

3.3. Referrals

- 3.3.1. If a patient is referred to a Queensland Health service for a condition that is out-of-scope, the Accountable Officer will inform the referring practitioner and patient and advise them to explore alternative options

3.4. Exceptions

- 3.4.1. Where a patient and their surgeon believe that provision of an out-of-scope procedure is clinically indicated, a request for exception outlining the details of the case may be lodged with the Director of Surgery, or other appropriate senior manager of surgical services as determined by the Health Service Chief Executive.
- 3.4.2. The Director of Surgery or approved other person shall assess the request and provide written advice of the assessment and outcome to the requesting surgeon. A copy of both the request and the outcome should be placed on the patient's medical record.
- 3.4.3. The Out-of-Scope Purchasing Initiative will still apply to any approved exceptions.

4. Supporting documents

- Cosmetic Medical and Surgical Procedures - A National Framework: Final Report 2011
- Queensland Health Clinical Services Capability Framework v3.2 2014
- National Healthcare Agreement
- Scope of Publicly Funded Services QH-POL-336
- Out-of-Scope Services Purchasing Specification Sheet

5. Definitions

Term	Definition
Medicare Benefit	Refers to the benefit patients receive from Medicare based on a schedule of fees set by the Australian Government (Source – Medicare Australia)

Term	Definition
Accountable Officer	The designated officer, as nominated by the Health Service Chief Executive, accountable for all aspects of the management and provision of services at a specific facility.

Version Control

Version	Date	Comments
1	25 June 2015	New guideline (replacing implementation standard of 1 April 2011)
2	19 October 2015	Change of custodian
3	28 August 2019	Revised guideline (changes to requirements for in-scope and out-of- scope services)
4	8 February 2023	Review and minor update