

# Nursing services table of costs

Effective 1 July 2011

Service	Descriptor	Insurer prior approval required <sup>1</sup>	Item number	Fee – GST not included <sup>2</sup>
General medical procedures	<p>Payable where a patient is seen by an advanced practice registered nurse (i.e. nurse practitioner or rural and isolated practice nurse) performs straightforward medical procedures that would normally be payable as part of a doctor's MBS attendance fee i.e. suturing a wound or removal of a superficial foreign body</p> <p>This also includes outpatient care in hospitals</p>	No	300081	\$24.00 per procedure to a maximum of \$103.00
Home nursing services by a registered nurse	<p>Home nursing services such as dressing of wounds and assistance with daily care</p> <p>The insurer will not pay for home nursing services greater than in excess of four (4) weeks without a treating medical practitioner review</p> <p><b>NB:</b> must be referred by a medical practitioner</p>	Yes	300014	<p><b>Day and evening:</b> Hourly rate \$61.00</p> <p><b>Weekend:</b> Hourly rate \$79.00</p>
Public hospital emergency nurse services	<p>To be billed where a worker receives primary emergency services provided by nursing staff <b>only</b></p> <p>This code is used if the care is of an emergency nature only and the hospital is not considered to have a recognised emergency department as per the <i>Public Health services table of costs</i></p>	No	300087	\$103.00 per day
Assisting doctor in minor surgery at a public hospital	This item will be payable only if the procedure attracts a MBS assistance fee and there is no other doctor available to assist	No	300089	\$34.00

Please read the item number descriptions contained in this document for service conditions and exclusions. Item numbers for reports, communication and other services can be found in the *Supplementary services table of costs*.

<sup>1</sup> Where prior approval is indicated the practitioner must seek approval from the insurer before providing services.

<sup>2</sup> Rates do not include GST. Check with the Australian Taxation Office if GST should be included.

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## Who can provide nursing services to injured workers?

All nursing services performed must be provided by a nurse who has a current registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia.

## Service conditions

Services provided to injured workers are subject to the following conditions:

- **Referral** – all workers must have a current workers' compensation certificate signed by a medical practitioner or nurse practitioner to cover any nursing services provided.
- **Treatment** – the insurer will not pay for nursing services for any period in excess of four (4) weeks without a treating medical practitioner review.
- **Ancillary services** – such as communication, reports travel and incidental expenses are covered in the *Supplementary services table of costs*.
- **Prior approval** – approval must be obtained for any service requiring prior approval from the insurer before commencing treatment.
- **Services not covered in this table of costs** – there may be other expenses not covered in this table of costs. The insurer will fund reasonable and appropriate expenses and the practitioner will need to negotiate these expenses directly with the insurer.
- **Payment of treatment** – all fees payable are listed in the *Nursing services table of costs*. For services not outlined in the table of costs, prior approval from the insurer is required.
- **End of treatment** – all payment for treatment ends where there is either no further medical certification, the presenting condition has been resolved, the insurer finalises/ceases the claim, the worker is not complying with treatment or the worker has achieved maximum function.

Queensland Health advise that public patients deemed to have an invalid claim for workers' compensation are entitled to revert to public patient status in accordance with the provisions of the Australian Health Care Agreement.

## Payment for services

The worker's compensation claim must have been accepted by the insurer for the injury or condition being treated. If the application for compensation is pending or has been rejected, the responsibility for payment for any services provided is a matter between the practitioner and the worker (or the employer, where services have been requested by a Rehabilitation and Return to Work Coordinator).

All invoices should be sent to the relevant insurer for payment—check whether the worker is employed by a self-insured employer or an employer insured by WorkCover Queensland.

Identify the appropriate item in the *Nursing services table of costs* for services or treatment provided. The insurer will only consider payment for services or treatments for the compensable injury, not other pre-existing conditions. Insurers will **not** pay for general communication such as receiving and reviewing referrals.

All hourly rates are to be charged at pro-rata where applicable eg for a 15min consultation/service charge one quarter of the hourly rate. All invoices must include the time taken for the service as well as the fee.

Fees listed in the *Nursing services table of costs* do not include GST. The practitioner is responsible for incorporating any applicable GST on taxable services/supplies into the invoice. Refer to a taxation advisor or the Australian Taxation Office for assistance if required.

Self-insurers require separate tax invoices for services to individual workers. WorkCover Queensland will accept billing for more than one worker on a single invoice.

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Accounts for treatment must be sent to the insurer promptly, and within two (2) months after the treatment is completed. To ensure payment, the invoice must contain the following information:

- the words 'Tax Invoice' stated prominently
- practice details and Australian Business Number (ABN)
- invoice date
- worker's name, residential address and date of birth
- worker's claim number (if known)
- worker's employer name and place of business
- referring medical practitioner's or nurse practitioner's name
- date of each service
- item number/s and treatment cost
- a brief description of each service item supplied, including areas treated
- name of the practitioner who provided the service.

Public hospitals please refer to the *Public health services table of costs*.

## Assistance

Contact the relevant insurer for claim related information such as:

- payment of invoices and account inquiries
- claim numbers/status
- rehabilitation status

For a current list of insurers or general advice about the tables of costs visit [www.qcomp.com.au](http://www.qcomp.com.au) or call 1300 789 881.