



NEWS RELEASE

Australian Divisions of General Practice Ltd.

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Medicare queues a thing of the past

Wasting lunch hours lining up to claim back Medicare rebates will be a thing of the past under changes to the Commonwealth Government Medicare payment system that were announced today.

ADGP Chair Dr Jenny Thomson said the new system would allow for almost instant financial transactions to allow the patient to get their rebate and for the doctor to be paid using Eftpos. The current system requires patients who are not bulkbilled to either send forms to or visit Medicare branches to get their rebate back.

“The plan to introduce Eftpos enabled payment will benefit GPs as well as patients.

“If the doctor bulk bills they will receive their payment within 24 hours instead of 14 days. If the patient is billed GPs will no longer have to wait for patients to return payment cheques after claiming from Medicare,” Dr Thomson said.

The payment system will not only promote efficiencies in the claiming process, but will also deliver savings in government infrastructure and other administration costs. These significant savings should be reinvested into primary health care service delivery and incentives for practices to adopt e-health solutions.

ADGP CEO Kate Carnell said she was pleased the government had adopted ADGP’s recommendations to have payments completed at the time of treatment.

“It is important that to ensure that the roll out is flexible enough to meet the varying business requirements in Australian general practice,” Ms Carnell said.

For more information please call Kate Carnell, ADGP Chief Executive Officer, on 0415 662 266.

WHAT IS ADGP?

- ADGP is the peak body representing 119 Divisions of General Practice and eight State-based organisations (SBOs) around Australia. The Divisions Network supports general practice and their practice teams and drives the implementation of innovative health strategies.
- ADGP, through the Divisions Network, works to integrate general practice with other sectors of the health system, both government and non-government, to deliver high quality care to the Australian community.
- ADGP is committed to promoting the health of all Australians by supporting the role of Divisions in the nation’s primary health care system.



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