



Approved Medical Deputising Service (AMDS) Program Participation Rights

Non-vocationally recognised (non-VR) Doctors who meet the minimum participation requirements set out under 4.2.1 of the AMDS Program Guidelines are considered by Health to have the rights to:

- choose which AMDS provider(s) they will deputise for;
- seek employment to deputise for multiple AMDS providers concurrently; and
- move their employment from one AMDS provider to another.

The Department of Health (Health) does not restrict participant doctors to deputising with a single provider either through:

- the revised AMDS Program Guidelines; or
- the legislation recognising the AMDS Program for Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) claiming purposes, specifically s3GA of the *Health Insurance Act 1973* and the *Health Insurance Regulations 1975*.

Health does not apply these types of restrictions because the AMDS Program Guidelines are concerned with setting the minimum standards for participation for both providers and non-VR doctors, and identifying the administrative processes for assessing against these minimum standards.

A non-VR doctor might be subject to work conditions that fall outside of the matters considered in the AMDS Program Guidelines as part of their contract of employment with an AMDS. The AMDS provider sets these conditions independently of Health. The non-VR doctor is responsible for meeting the terms of the agreement they make as part of an employment contract.

What about concurrent participation on other general practice programs?

The primary legislation, specifically s3GA of the HIA does not contemplate non-VR doctors participating on multiple general practice programs. Accordingly, some non-VR doctors have sought to deputise through the AMDS Program while they work on a full-time basis through another recognised general practice program arrangement.

Some general practice programs (an example is the Special Approved Placements Program) prohibit approved participant non-VR doctors from concurrently working on another program. A non-VR doctor who participates on one of these programs would be ineligible to join the AMDS Program. If these doctors choose to pursue a placement on the AMDS Program, they would be required to forfeit their placement on the alternate program.

Non-VR doctors who are seeking to deputise for an AMDS in addition to working through a full-time general practice program must ensure that they do not breach the conditions of their full-time placement on the alternate program.

Contacting Health for further information

The Access Programs Section of Health is responsible for the AMDS Program. The AMDS Program is supported by a dedicated in-box: AMDS@health.gov.au. Further information regarding the participation rights can be obtained by emailing this in-box. The Access Programs Section responds to all emails within a 28 day timeframe.