



ELIGIBLE NON-VOCATIONALLY RECOGNISED GPs

Eligible participants

Part 4 of the Approved Medical Deputising Service Program (AMDS) Program Guidelines identifies the eligibility requirements for non-vocationally recognised (non-VR) GPs who seek access to the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) to deputise during the after-hours period. In addition to being employed by a recognised AMDS provider, the Guidelines provide that a non-VR GP may apply to access the MBS under the conditions of the Program if they:

- hold general registration with the Medical Board of Australia;
- have a minimum of two years post-graduate experience, including experience in paediatrics, accident and emergency medicine, medicine and surgery;
- have completed the Level 1 Advanced Life Support Course as approved by the RACGP and/or the ACRRM; and
- commit to obtaining Fellowship of either the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners or the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine within six years of being registered to participate on the AMDS Program.

Earlier versions of the AMDS Program Guidelines placed a restriction on many Australian temporary resident doctors from applying for MBS access under the Program. From 1 March 2018, AMDS providers will be compelled to register all of the non-VR GPs they employ to deputise under the Deed they hold for the Program. Restrictions on who can participate on the AMDS are no longer based on Australian residency status.

Who determine the eligibility of prospective AMDS Program participants?

AMDSs are expected to vet applicant non-VR GPs against the standards set out in Program Guidelines. An AMDS must be satisfied that a non-VR GP meets the participation standards set out in part 4 of the Guidelines before it applies to the Department of Health (Health) to place the doctor on the Program. Health is ultimately responsible for determining if an applicant doctor meets the standards for participation on the Program.

Health communicates all placement decisions with the AMDS. The AMDS is responsible for all direct communication with an applicant.

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 inbox: AMDS@health.gov.au. Further information regarding the requirements for participating on the AMDS Program can be obtained by emailing this inbox. The Access Programs Section responds to all emails within a 28 day timeframe.

Further reading

This Fact Sheet must be read in conjunction with the AMDS Program Guidelines that come into effect on 1 March 2018. The Guidelines provide the requirements for Program participation.