

Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 Vaccinations provided by Medical Practitioners and Practice Nurses/Registered Aboriginal Health Worker

UPDATE 28 Sept 2009

Location

A medical practitioner may provide vaccinations at a place such as a school hall or community centre as well as at consulting rooms, residential aged care facilities and other specific institutions.

As is normally the case, when providing a professional service under Medicare, a medical practitioner must provide either his or her name and address, or provider number on the account, receipt or bulk billing agreement. Where a service is provided at a venue such as a school or community centre and the medical practitioner chooses to list his or her name and address, the medical practitioner need only provide his or her usual contact address - not the address at which the service is provided.

Medicare Australia has confirmed that *providing H1N1 vaccinations* under Medicare *temporarily* from a venue, such as a community hall or school that is not an address associated with a practitioner's Medicare-registered practice location, is acceptable under Medicare Australia's administrative rules. These arrangements will be reviewed on 1 March 2010.

This includes doctors who are accessing Medicare benefits under a location specific section 3GA program placement or section 19AB exemption.

Claiming for GP, Practice Nurse and Aboriginal Health Worker services

In terms of providing Medicare-eligible GP and practice nurse or registered Aboriginal health worker services to the same patient, the usual rules apply.

A vaccination can be provided by a practice nurse (MBS item 10993) or a registered Aboriginal health worker (MBS item 10988), for and on behalf of and under the supervision of a medical practitioner. The patient can receive a service under another Medicare item that is additional to a service under items 10993 or 10988 where the medical practitioner also provides a service to the patient *in* addition to the immunisation being administered by the practice nurse or registered Aboriginal health worker who performs the immunisation.