



# Addendum - Rural Procedural Grants Program

## Addendum to [2011 Rural Procedural Grants Program Guidelines](#)

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department has issued a number of temporary revised eligibility arrangements for the Rural Procedural Grants Program to provide additional flexibility and support to rural procedural GPs so that they can continue to access subsidised CPD activities during the period of social restriction.

### Support for GPs during the COVID -19 pandemic

The revised eligibility in response to COVID-19 are as follows:

- 1) Allow current RPGP participants to claim for a limited number of procedural/emergency medicine CPD activities delivered online, at a rate of \$1,000 per day. Courses must be approved by the GP Colleges as CPD activities and include an interactive component and/or assessment. All other eligibility criteria still apply.
- 2) Payment of claims for online CPD activities can be made to the relevant GP College from 1 July 2020. These claims can be for eligible online CPD undertaken by eligible GPs from the commencement of movement restrictions due to COVID-19.
- 3) As of 1 July GPs who are registered in the Emergency Medicine component can claim an additional 3 days of emergency mental health CPD per financial year. Online training in emergency mental health will be eligible for a \$1,000 per day grant up to \$3,000 and is not payable for activities prior to 1 July 2020.

Reforms to the RPGP were planned to commence on 1 July 2020. However some of these changes have now been postponed until 1 January 2021 due to the current COVID-19 pandemic. New program guidelines will commence from 1 January 2021, these guidelines will provide information on all of the updated eligibility requirements for the program and will supersede the current 2011 guidelines from 1 January 2021.

The reforms to the program commencing 1 July 2020 are:

- The addition of emergency mental health CPD to the emergency medicine component, including an additional 3 days of support per financial year in addition to the 3 days already available for emergency medicine.
- Grant payment processing responsibility will be transferring from Services Australia to RACGP and ACRRM. This change will not impact on RPGP participants.

The key reforms commencing 1 January 2021 are:

- The adoption of Modified Monash (MM) Model categories 3-7.
- The restriction of eligibility to vocationally recognised GPs (registrars will no longer be eligible for the program).



## Summary of COVID-19 arrangements

RPGP Component	Amount claimable	Period of COVID-19 restriction	After the cessation of COVID-19 restrictions
<p><b>Component 1 – Procedural GPs Practising in Surgery, Anaesthetics and/or Obstetrics</b></p> <p>This component is designed to assist eligible GPs with the cost of attending CPD activities to maintain and/or enhance their procedural skills in surgery, anaesthetics and/or obstetrics.</p>	<p>A grant of \$2,000 per day for a maximum of <b>10 days</b> per financial year is available. GPs are eligible to access the payment multiple times per financial year up to this maximum.</p>	<p>CPD activities delivered online will be eligible between Jul-Dec 2020 at \$1,000 per day, for a maximum of <b>10 days</b>.</p> <p>Online courses should have a minimum of four hours of course time delivery to count as a day.</p> <p>Colleges to approve all online CPD activities.</p>	<p>New Guidelines and eligibility changes come into effect, limiting access to VR GPs and those practising in MM3-7.</p> <p>Online training is no longer eligible.</p> <p>Grant of \$2,000 per day applies during this period to activities meeting the eligibility criteria in 2020 guidelines.</p> <p>Participants can claim up to a <b>total of \$20,000</b> for the financial year 2020-21.</p>
<p><b>Component 2 – GPs Practising Emergency Medicine</b></p> <p>This component is designed to assist eligible GPs with the cost of attending CPD activities to maintain and/or enhance their emergency medicine skills.</p>	<p><b>Emergency Medicine</b></p> <p>A grant of \$2,000 per day for a maximum of 3 days per financial year is available. GPs are eligible to access the payment multiple times per financial year up to this maximum.</p>	<p>CPD activities delivered online will be eligible between Jul-Dec 2020 at \$1,000 per day, for a maximum of <b>3 days</b>.</p> <p>Online courses should have a minimum of four hours of course time delivery to count as a day.</p> <p>Colleges to approve all online CPD activities.</p>	<p>New Guidelines and eligibility changes come into effect, limiting access to VR GPs and those practising in MM3-7.</p> <p>Online training is no longer eligible.</p> <p>Grant of \$2,000 per day applies during this period to activities meeting the eligibility criteria in updated program guidelines.</p> <p>Participants can claim up to a <b>total of \$6,000</b> for the financial year 2020-21.</p>

RPGP Component	Amount claimable	Period of COVID-19 restriction	After the cessation of COVID-19 restrictions
	<p><b>Emergency Mental Health Services</b></p> <p>A grant of \$2,000 per day for an additional 3 days per financial year to support CPD in emergency mental health, if the GP who is registered in the Emergency Medicine component and is also responsible for providing care in respect of emergency mental health services/crisis intervention in patients presenting with acute mental health issues.</p>	<p>Emergency Mental Health grant is available from 1 July 2020 – Maximum \$6,000.</p> <p>CPD activities delivered online will be eligible between Jul-Dec at \$1,000 per day, for a maximum of <b>3 days</b>.</p> <p>Online courses should have a minimum of four hours of course time delivery to count as a day.</p> <p>Colleges to approve all online CPD activities.</p>	<p>Online training is no longer eligible.</p> <p>Grant of \$2,000 per day applies during this period to activities meeting the eligibility criteria in updated program guidelines.</p> <p>Participants can claim up to <b>\$6,000</b> for the financial year 2020-21, totalling <b>\$12,000</b> for Component 2.</p>