

Electronic Medicare claiming for Podiatry

25.10.2007

From 1 November 2007, allied health care professionals covered under the *Allied Health and Dental initiative 2004*, including podiatrists, can choose to process Medicare claims electronically.

Electronic claiming cuts paperwork and speeds up payments for medical practices. Batching of bulk bill forms is eliminated, and rebates are paid directly into the health care professional's bank account within two-three working days. Electronic claiming lets you help patients lodge their claims for Medicare rebates on-the-spot.

Recognising the different needs of practices, Medicare Australia is offering a choice of two electronic claiming channels – the internet-based Medicare Online, and the EFTPOS-based Medicare Easyclaim. Both channels cater for bulk bill and patient claims, with some important differences for practices to consider.

Medicare Online is fully integrated, meaning it 'talks to' practice management software systems and automatically reconciles payments.

Medicare Easyclaim only requires an EFTPOS terminal. As it uses familiar EFTPOS technology it is a very patient-friendly form of on-the-spot claiming. An integrated version of Medicare Easyclaim, which links to some practice management systems, is under development.

Electronic claiming is already used by over 6,000 general and specialist practices with take-up rates growing each year.

For more information on choosing the electronic Medicare claiming option that's right for your practice and patients, and how to get started, call 1800 700 199 or visit www.medicareaustralia.gov.au. You can also talk to your software vendor or your current EFTPOS provider.

Choosing the claiming channel that's right for you 										
	Availability	Less paper	EFT payment speed for practices	EFT payment speed for patients	Equipment required	DVA and ADR	Software integration	Automatic reconciliation	Automatic concession verification	Security
Medicare Easyclaim (stand alone)	now	✓	next working day	almost immediately	EFTPOS terminal	✗	✗	✗	✓	triple DES [^]
Medicare Easyclaim (integrated)	under development	✓	next working day	almost immediately	EFTPOS terminal, PC, internet, practice software	✗	with Tyro/HCN [†]	available first half 2008	✓	triple DES [^]
Medicare Online (HC Online)	now	✓	2-3 working days	2-3 working days	PC, internet, practice software	✓	✓	✓	not yet available	PKI
Paper claiming	now	✗	14 days	2-3 working days	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗

For more information on claiming options, visit www.medicareaustralia.gov.au or call 1800 700 199.*

[†] Other EFTPOS and software providers likely to offer integrated options over time.
[^] Data Encryption Standard.
^{*} Call charges apply from mobile and pay phones only.

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1800 700 199