

AUSTRALIAN HEALTH CARE

MEDICARE

Medicare is the Australia's public health care funding system. It contributes to the cost of health care providing eligible Australian residents with affordable, accessible and high-quality health care.

MEDICARE BENEFIT SCHEME (MBS)

MBS contains information on professional services covered by Medicare. It is published by the Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA) annually.

SCHEDULE FEES

The schedule fees for medical services are uniform across Australia. However, practitioners are able to charge fees which are higher than the scheduled rates they consider suitable for the services they provide.

WHY DO YOU NEED TO UNDERSTAND THE AUSTRALIAN HEALTH CARE SYSTEM?

Most international students are not eligible for Medicare. However, it is compulsory to have Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC), which is Medicare equivalent.

STUDENTS FROM NEW ZEALAND

Students from New Zealand do not require OSHC. You are eligible for Medicare with limited access for the length of your stay in Australia.

You are entitled to free public hospital treatment as public patients in Australia and to subsidised PBS medicines on production of your passport.

You are not eligible for out-of-hospital medical treatment that is immediately necessary for any ill health or injury treatment during your visit. For more detailed information, please visit

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/wcms/publishing.nsf/Content/ozhealth-visitors>

However, you are encouraged to purchase private health insurance during your study in Australia.

STUDENTS FROM NORWAY AND SWEDEN

Norwegian and Swedish students do not require OSHC if

- Norwegian student covered by the Norwegian National Insurance Scheme
- Swedish student covered by CSN International (the National Board of Student Aid) or by Kammarkollegiet.

OSHC is available to Swedish nationals if they require it.

GENERAL PRACTITIONERS

If you are not in a medical emergency situation, a general practitioner (GP) or local health centre is your first point of contact. At your local health centre, you may access services such as:

- General medicine and simple diagnostic screenings,
- Assessment and treatment of health problems and injuries,
- First aid services as needed, and
- Referrals to specialist services.

In most cases, it is necessary for you to make an appointment to see the doctor.

On campus, there is an ANU health service centre that provides these services to staff and students.

<http://www.anu.edu.au/health/index.php>

HOSPITAL TREATMENT

If you have been referred to hospital for non emergency admission, contact your health fund claim department prior to admission

OSHC Worldcare Assist
 T: 1800 651 349

You will need to provide OSHC Worldcare Assist with the details of your treatment and hospital stay. They will then be able to confirm your cover and assist you with making arrangements for payment to the hospital.

PUBLIC ADMISSION

Public hospitals in Canberra are:

- The Canberra Hospital, Yamba Drive, Garran.
 T: +61 2 6244 2222
- Calvary Public Hospital, Haydon Drive, Bruce.
 T: +61 2 6201 6111

PRIVATE ADMISSION

Private Hospitals in Canberra are:

- Calvary John James Hospital
T: +61 2 6281 8100
- Calvary Private Hospital
T: +61 2 6201 6396
- National Capital Private Hospital
T: +61 2 6222 6666

ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY

Public hospitals have a 24-hour Accident and Emergency department. When you visit an accident and emergency department, a nurse will assess you and if your illness or injury is not deemed as an emergency, you may need to wait a long time to see a doctor.

If you have been admitted for emergency treatment, contact your health fund provider immediately.

OSHC Worldcare Assist
T: 1800 814 781

DIRECT BILLING SERVICE

Direct billing occurs when the medical practitioner directs bills to your health fund provider. The ANU Health Services has this service. However, other medical centres may require you to pay up front and seek reimbursement from your health fund provider later.

Radiology and Pathology

OSHC may not cover 100% costs of these services. In such cases, under the direct billing arrangements, the bill for the covered portion of your service will be sent directly to your health fund provider. You are required to pay the co-payment (difference between the benefit payable and amount being charged).

PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS SCHEME (PBS)

PBS subsidises most medicines available on prescription. However, patients are required to contribute \$30.70 towards the cost of a prescription. This amount is often referred as the **co-payment** or the **contribution for Pharmaceutical Prescriptions**.

BRINGING MEDICINES INTO AUSTRALIA

Students who are taking medication for existing medical conditions should bring their own supply. Medicines brought into and taken out of Australia may be subject to import and export controls.

(See <http://www.tga.gov.au/import/index.htm>)

In addition, students are advised to bring along a prescription, which has been translated into English.

PRE-EXISTING CONDITION

A pre-existing condition is an ailment, illness, disability or condition the signs or symptoms of which existed prior to:

- your arrival to Australia, or
- if you are on-shore applicant who previously did not hold a student visa on the day your student visa was granted.

A pre-existing condition also includes a secondary related condition that you have suffered from at any time before you come to Australia, or before the date your student visa was granted, whichever is the later date.

Students who have a pre-existing condition are advised to bring referral letters from your treating specialists at home country. You may also want to consider making contact with the university health service prior to your arrival to Australia.

ANU Health Services

Sport Union Bldg 18 North Road
The Australian National University
ACT Canberra 0200

T: +61 2 6125 3598 (Front Desk)

T: +61 2 6125 9695 (Nurse)

(between 2pm-4pm weekdays)

F: +61 2 6125 0069

E: nurse@anu.edu.au

W: <http://www.anu.edu.au/health/>

Waiting Period

Students who suffer from an existing medical condition prior to arriving Australia, should be aware that there is a waiting period before your health fund provider will cover your related medical costs.

The waiting period is calculated as 12 months commencing from:

- the date you arrive in Australia, or
- if you are an on-shore applicant who previously did not hold a student visa, the date your student visa was granted.