

Frequently asked questions

Cost of Treatment Regulations Changes 2012



THE CHANGES

What are the approved changes to the Cost of Treatment Regulations?

- Three additional procedure types for podiatrists will be added.
- A regulated price for nurse practitioners will be introduced.
- The regulated price for general practitioners and registered nurses will be increased.
- The prices in the Cost of Treatment Regulations will be stated in GST exclusive terms.

TIMING

When do the changes to the Cost of Treatment Regulations take effect?

The above changes will take effect on 1 April 2012, except for stating prices in GST exclusive terms. That change will take effect from 1 July 2012.

PODIATRY

What are the three additional procedure types for podiatrists?

New ACC Code	Current ACC Code	Description	Price (GST exclusive)
POD3	PD11	Abscess or haematoma drainage with incision (With or without local anaesthetic agent)	\$26.85
POD4	PD12	Nail, simple removal of	\$21.50
POD5	PD13	Nail, wedge resection/removal of – requiring the use of digital anaesthesia	\$89.49

What will happen to the letters of agreement for podiatry services?

Podiatrists working under a letter of agreement will receive a letter from ACC before April which will terminate the agreement and confirm the procedures under the Cost of Treatment Regulations.

Why will the podiatry codes in the Cost of Treatment Regulations (ie POD 3,4,5) be different from those contained in the letter of agreement (ie PD11,12,13)?

The change of the codes provides a clear and simple differentiation between services provided under the letter of agreement and those under regulations. This will help with payment processing and data monitoring.

PRICING CATEGORY FOR NURSE PRACTITIONERS

What is the regulated price for nurse practitioners?

The price is \$25.51 GST exclusive (\$29.34 GST inclusive) per consultation.

Why have nurse practitioners been recognised with their own pricing category?

The change recognises the difference in the scope of practice and level of responsibility between nurse practitioners and registered nurses.

What is the new service code for nurse practitioners?

NUP1

PRICE INCREASE FOR GENERAL PRACTITIONERS AND REGISTERED NURSES

How much is the increase for general practitioners and registered nurses?

2% (see table below).

General practitioners and registered nurses	Current price GST incl.	New price GST incl.	New price GST excl.
General practitioners (for under 6-year-olds)	\$36.67	\$37.40	\$32.52
General practitioners (for 6-year-olds and over)	\$33.53	\$34.20	\$29.74
Registered nurse	\$15.72	\$16.03	\$13.94
GP and registered nurse combined (for under 6-year-olds)	\$39.81	\$40.61	\$35.31
GP and registered nurses combined (for 6-year-olds and over)	\$36.67	\$37.40	\$32.52

[Why is the increase only 2%?](#)

This increase is in line with increases made by the Ministry of Health to District Health Boards (DHBs).

[Why doesn't the increase apply to other provider groups?](#)

At the time of review the rate of co-payment for other provider groups had not increased sufficiently to suggest an adjustment is required.

[How will I be able to bill for these new services and/or rates?](#)

Your Practice Management System (PMS) vendor has received details of these changes so that they can update your system. Once done, you will be able to bill for services provided from 1 April 2012 at the new rates and using the new codes.

PRICES STATED AS GST EXCLUSIVE

[Why are the prices going to be stated in GST exclusive terms from 1 July 2012?](#)

To avoid future administrative costs if the rate of GST changes again. The October 2010 GST rate change to 15% required a formal Cabinet process to alter the prices as they were stated in GST inclusive terms. Such a process is not necessary if the prices are stated in GST exclusive terms.

[Will providers need to do anything differently?](#)

No. The fact that the Cost of Treatment Regulations will be stated in GST exclusive terms from 1 July 2012 will not have any impact on providers.

Over time providers will notice ACC moving away from presenting prices and amounts in only GST inclusive terms. Instead they will primarily be stated in GST exclusive terms, or sometimes, in both GST exclusive and inclusive terms.

[Will this change the amount providers receive from 1 July 2012?](#)

No. The actual prices paid to providers will still be GST inclusive, because if the provider is GST registered, ACC will add on GST when payment is made.

Are there any Regulations that the GST exclusive change doesn't apply to?

Yes. The change doesn't apply to the Ancillary Services (eg transport and accommodation) Regulations. However it is anticipated they will be changed in the future.

Will I need to change the way I bill ACC?

No. Continue to bill for services as you currently do.

INVOICING

How do we get the updated prices to load onto our practice's computer?

Contact your Practice Management System (PMS) vendor for the price updates.

I send my bills manually so where can I find an updated price list?

Updated prices for the affected forms will be available on the ACC website – www.acc.co.nz before 1 April 2012. You can search for these forms under 'ACC1520' and 'ACC1523'.

If you want to start billing ACC electronically, please contact the ACC eBusiness Support team on 0800-220-994 option 1.

What happens if ACC receives an eSchedule or invoice with the old price for services provided from 1 April 2012?

For eSchedules – the electronic schedule will be declined and you'll be asked to resubmit the electronic schedule with the correct price.

For invoices - payment will be declined and you'll be asked to resend your invoice with the correct price.

CONSULTATION

How did the changes come about?

The changes to the Cost of Treatment Regulations are the result of annual price review and public consultation, with subsequent Cabinet approval of the amendments proposed in 2011.

The review's purpose is to assess whether an adjustment to any of the amounts paid under the regulations (the Cost of Treatment Regulations and the Hearing Loss Regulations) is required to take into account changes in the costs of rehabilitation.

Who was involved in the public consultation?

Treatment provider groups, district health boards, client representatives, private hospitals and private insurers. Appropriate government agencies, including the Ministry of Health have also been consulted.

What were the results of the consultation?

Eighteen public submissions were received with the vast majority in favour of the amendments.