



Country WA PHN Activity Work Plan

Medicare Urgent Care Clinics Program

**Summary View
2022/2023 – 2025/2026**

**Presented to the Australian Government Department of Health
and Aged Care**

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UCC 1000 – Urgent Care Clinics

Activity Title

Urgent Care Clinics

Activity Number

1000

Activity Status

New Activity

PHN Program Key Priority Area

Population Health

Aim of Activity

Strengthening primary health care and ensuring all Australians have access to affordable primary care services is a priority for the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care. The Department of Health and Aged Care allocated up to \$230.9 million over four years (2022-23 to 2025-26) for PHNs to assist with the establishment of 58 Medicare Urgent Care Clinics (Medicare UCCs) throughout Australia.

The Department of Health and Aged Care have developed the Medicare UCC policy to ease the pressure on hospitals emergency departments and give Australian families more options to see a suitably qualified and skilled healthcare professional when they have an urgent but not life-threatening need for care. All Medicare UCCs are required to provide bulk-billed services, be open during extended business hours and accept walk-in patients for specified urgent care presentations. This measure delivers on the Department of Health and Aged Care commitment to strengthen Medicare and make it easier to see a doctor, as published in the Plan for a Better Future.

Description of Activity

The Department of Health and Aged Care and Western Australian governments have entered into a bilateral agreement, with WA Primary Health Alliance (WAPHA) as designated commissioner, to deliver the Medicare Urgent Care Clinic in seven designated WA locations; focused on specified actions that are intended to reduce pressure on emergency departments.

WAPHA will conduct an expression of interest and formal competitive grant opportunity to identify and commission providers to deliver the Medicare UCC service in seven locations: Perth City, Clarkson, Rockingham, Morley, Midland, Bunbury, and Broome.

In Country WA PHN there will be two Medicare UCCs:

1. Broome Medicare UCC
2. Bunbury Medicare UCC

The PHN will:

- Support close co-operation between Medicare UCCs, primary health care services, local emergency departments and the local health system.
- Engage local stakeholders in feasibility and sustainability discussions of UCCs in specific regional locations where issues of workforce shortage and lack of supporting services will require innovative solutions.
- Work in collaboration with the relevant state government to support the establishment of referral pathways to local emergency departments and other health care providers.
- Support and participate in relevant local and national Medicare UCC governance arrangements and where required, the Commonwealth-led evaluation of Medicare UCCs.
- Undertake relevant local communications activities to increase community awareness and understanding of the availability of services and conditions that are appropriate to be managed within a Medicare UCC.
- Support the uptake of any required training by Medicare UCC staff and the delivery of training where appropriate.
- Ensure the Medicare UCC adheres to the UCC Data Sharing Agreement, UCC Privacy Policy and the UCC Patient Consent Form (supplied separately) and provide clinics with support to complete new data fields where required.
- Support clinics to understand operational requirements as outlined in the UCC Operational Guidance (Annexure E – Medicare UCC Funding Schedule) where appropriate.
- Provide, in consultation with the relevant Medicare UCC contract manager, Department of Health and Aged Care funding to the clinics where there is a justifiable need for high-cost specialist equipment and, for example, where the Medicare UCC provider cannot secure a separate agreement with a radiology or pathology provider, in line with the allocations as specified within the Medicare UCC Funding Schedule (Annexure D).

Country WA PHN Needs Assessment

Priorities

Page reference

Investigate successful alternatives to the provision of primary care in Emergency Departments in country regions. (Midwest)	56
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Target Population Cohort

General practitioners, practice nurses and other administration staff who manage the reception desk.

Population in general.

Consultation

The PHN consulted with and continues to consult with a variety of stakeholders including:

- Hospital emergency department teams
- WA Health management
- WA GP Urgent Care Network
- National Health Service Directory
- Health Direct
- Department of Health and Aged Care
- WA Country Health Service
- Aboriginal Medical Services

Collaboration

- Hospital emergency department teams for the development and implementation of pathways of care.
- WA Health management for strategic oversight of the UCC activity.
- Department of Health and Aged Care as funder, and for policy and communications resource.
- WA Country Health service for development of Country AA specific UCC models in designated regions.
- Department of Premier and Cabinet for strategic oversight of UCC activity.
- Local health care providers including Radiology and Pathology for design of patient pathways.
- General practitioners for design, delivery, monitoring, and evaluation of UCCs (includes non UCC GPs in local area).
- Practice teams (clinical and administrative) for design, delivery, monitoring, and evaluation of UCCs.

Coverage

The Bunbury and Kimberley local government areas within the Country WA PHN region.

Activity Start Date

1 June 2023

Activity End Date

30 June 2026

Milestones

EOI commenced May 2023

EOI closed 10 July 2023

Selection of Medicare UCCs August 2023

Establishment of services by 31 December 2023

Activity Planned Expenditure

Funding Stream	FY 22 23	FY 23 24	FY 24 25	FY 25 26
Medicare Urgent Care Clinics (UCC)	\$0.00	\$3,947,035.00	\$2,937,962.00	\$2,937,962.00
PHN Support Funding (UCC-PSF)	\$0.00	\$101,172.92	\$87,726.33	\$87,726.33
Specialist Equipment (UCC-SE)	\$0.00	\$337,682.22	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total	\$0.00	\$4,385,890.14	\$3,025,688.33	\$3,025,688.33

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