

Provider Eligibility

Subsections 19(2) and/or 19(5) of the *Health Insurance Act 1973* How it applies when claiming a Medicare benefit

What is Subsection 19(2) and/or 19(5) of the *Health Insurance Act 1973*

Section 19 of the *Health Insurance Act 1973* provides that Medicare benefits are not payable for certain professional services (such as those provided in hospitals, multipurpose services and community clinics) where other government funding is already provided for that service.

What is a Subsection 19(2) and/or 19(5) exemption?

- The exception is if the Australian Government Minister for Health and Aged Care, or their delegate, makes a direction under Subsection 19(2) and 19(5) of the *Health Insurance Act 1973* exempting the site.
- This is called a Subsection 19(2) and/or 19(5) exemption (often referred to as a section 19(2)/19(5) exemption).

How do I know if my place of practice is subject to a current Subsection 19(2) and/or 19(5) direction?

You can contact your practice for more information.

To claim a Medicare benefit as a health professional you need to apply for a Medicare provider number (MPN).

A MPN lets you:

- refer patients to specialists
- provide imaging or pathology services
- claim or bill Medicare services.

For more information, refer to the [Provider Eligibility tile](#) on the Health Professional Education Resources website.

