

# Medicare Urgent Care Clinics and other urgent care initiatives

## Commonwealth Medicare Urgent Care Clinics (Medicare UCCs) program versus other urgent care initiatives

There are differences between the Commonwealth Medicare UCC program and other programs that provide urgent care:

- Clinics that receive government funding must meet specific requirements in order to receive a 19(2) Direction, bulk bill through the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) and be branded as a Medicare UCC.
- Clinics that do not receive government funding may be described as urgent care initiatives, however, they do not need to meet the same requirements as Medicare UCCs.

### What is Section 19(2) of the *Health Insurance Act 1973*?

- The *Health Insurance Act 1973* is a legislative document that determines eligibility to access Medicare benefits.
- A subsection 19(2) exemption is required for a health service to:
  - receive grant or other direct funding from the Commonwealth, state or territory governments, and
  - access MBS billing.

If a health service is receiving government funding, MBS billing is not permitted without a subsection 19(2) exemption.

### Commonwealth Medicare UCCs and other urgent care initiatives comparison table

Type of clinic	Funding source	Locations	Eligible for Medicare UCC Provider Numbers?
Medicare Urgent Care Clinics	Commonwealth Government (grant and MBS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All states and territories</li> <li>• <a href="#">Find a Medicare UCC near you</a></li> </ul>	Yes
Priority Primary Care Centres	Commonwealth and/or Victorian Government (grant and/or MBS)	Victoria only	In some instances, confirm with Victorian Government if unsure.
Urgent Care Services	Commonwealth and/or New South Wales Government (grant and/or MBS)	New South Wales only	In some instances, confirm with New South Wales Government if unsure.
Priority Care Centres	South Australian Government	South Australia only	No
St John Urgent Care	Western Australian Government	Western Australia only	No
Other urgent care service initiatives	No Commonwealth, state or territory funding	All states and territories	No

