



# Extended Primary Care

A programme by **WellSouth**

Last updated: 15/05/2025

## Intended Purpose

This programme enables patients to be treated by their general practice for acute presentations where they would otherwise need to be treated in hospital. This reduces financial burden to the patient, who is only charged for the initial consult. It keeps care closer to home, and in many instances will offer more timely treatment. This programme replaces most of the previous POAC funded programmes, and is available until 30 June 2025.

HealthPathways Link:

See relevant HealthPathways page for the primary presenting concern:  
<https://southern.communityhealthpathways.org/>

## Eligibility

General practices will be able to claim for providing a package of care (POC):

- To patients with an acute condition, who without support would otherwise be referred acutely to hospital (**Acute Care**). Available to all practices.
- For rural practices providing prolonged clinical care and observation for patients waiting on a hospital transfer (**Rural Stabilisation**).
- There is no age restriction.
- See over for presenting concerns.

## Exclusions

- Unstable patients (except for rural stabilisation)
- ACC claimable services
- Patients not eligible for NZ healthcare funding
- Patients requiring non-urgent investigations
- Services already contracted for e.g maternity services
- Claims for treating cellulitis with IV antibiotics (see Page 2)

## Key Information

- You may claim for patients who are not enrolled with your practice, at your discretion. You acknowledge in making a claim that no additional funding is available for this.
- No additional amount will be paid for after-hours service delivery.
- You can claim for time spent actively treating or observing the patient. Not for the entire time the patient was in the practice.

## Acute Care

- Claims can be made for up to 90 minutes for each role involved in providing the POC (GP/NP, Nurse, non-clinical). Applies to initial claims and follow ups.
- Can claim for follow up within 5 days of initial POC for same presenting condition.

## Rural Stabilisation

- Claims can be made for up to 3 hrs for nurse or non-clinical time.
- Maximum GP/NP time claimable remains 90 minutes.
- No follow up for Rural Stabilisation.

## Claiming

Claiming is via the WellSouth PHN portal.

Extended Primary Care	Acute Care Initial Claim	Patient must meet eligibility criteria
	Rural Stabilisation Claim	Patient must meet eligibility criteria
Extended Primary Care	Acute Care Follow-up Claim	Acute Care – <b>[ACTIVE]</b> Initial Claim: <b>29 July 2024 15:15</b>

## Service code for your PMS

Please set these up prior to using the programme.

Code	Amount (incl. GST)	Description
WPEPA1	\$0.00	EPC Acute Care Init.
WPEPA2	\$0.00	EPC Acute Care F/up
WPEPR1	\$0.00	EPC Rural Stab.

## Payment Rates

See Page 3 for detailed time/role payment schedule.

## Can a co-payment be charged?

- Initial appointment can be charged at:
  - Standard consult fee for enrolled patients
  - Casual consult fee for unenrolled
- No further charges or co-payments can be charged for the package of care.
- No charges to the patient for consumables, with the exception of catheter kits and IV fluids which can be claimed at \$90 and \$20 (excl. GST), respectively.

## When does the claim need-be completed?

Claiming must be completed within 2 months of treatment. The exception: acute care follow ups must be submitted within 5 days of initial claim.

If your PMS is aligned to the WellSouth Clinical BCTIs, please contact [practicenetwork@wellsouth.org.nz](mailto:practicenetwork@wellsouth.org.nz) with your new Account Internal ID.



## Presenting concerns

- Abscess
- Abdominal pain
- Allergy
- Angina
- Asthma
- Cancer
- Chest pain
- Congestive heart failure
- COPD
- COVID
- Deep Vein Thrombosis
- Dehydration
- Diabetes
- Dizziness/vertigo
- ENT
- Frailty
- Fever unknown
- Foreign body
- Gastroenteritis
- Gynaecological
- Infection (other)
- Kidney/Urinary infection
- Mental Health
- Musculo-skeletal
- Neurological
- Other
- Pleurisy/Pleural Effusion
- Pneumonia
- Pneumothorax
- Post discharge review
- Psychological/social/acopia
- Pyelonephritis
- Renal colic
- Respiratory (not COPD, Asthma, Pneumonia)
- Syncope/collapse/LOC
- Tonsilitis
- Urological
- Viral illness

## Cellulitis Exclusion

IV Antibiotics for Cellulitis treatment cannot be claimed.

Refer to the following HealthPathways for cellulitis treatment guidelines:

<https://southern.communityhealthpathways.org/21918.htm>

High dose oral antibiotics are preferred for moderate cellulitis.

## Key Claiming Business Rules

- Claims without an NHI will be rejected.
- Acute Care then Rural Stabilisation claim later the same day:  
→ Rural Stabilisation claim requires review by WellSouth.
- Rural Stabilisation then Acute Care claim later the same day:  
→ Acute Care claim rejected.
- Patient must have had an Acute Care initial claim before an Acute Care follow up can be claimed.

## Audit

Claims may be subject to an Audit at WellSouth discretion.



## Payment Rates (excl. GST)

### Acute Care (initial and follow up)

	GP and /or NP Time	Nurse Time	Administration/ Observation Time
Up to 14 minutes	Add \$82	Add \$40	Add \$10
15-29 minutes	Add \$164	Add \$80	Add \$20
30-44 minutes	Add \$246	Add \$120	Add \$30
45-59 minutes	Add \$328	Add \$160	Add \$40
60-74 minutes	Add \$410	Add \$200	Add \$50
75-89 minutes	Add \$492	Add \$240	Add \$60
90+ minutes	Add \$574	Add \$280	Add \$70

All payment amounts have a consumable component built in, with the exception of catheter kits and IV fluids. These can be added to claims where applicable.

### Rural Stabilisation

	GP and /or NP Time	Nurse Time	Administration/ Observation Time
Up to 14 minutes	Add \$82	Add \$40	Add \$10
15-29 minutes	Add \$164	Add \$80	Add \$20
30-44 minutes	Add \$246	Add \$120	Add \$30
45-59 minutes	Add \$328	Add \$160	Add \$40
60-74 minutes	Add \$410	Add \$200	Add \$50
75-89 minutes	Add \$492	Add \$240	Add \$60
90+ minutes	Add \$574	n/a	n/a
90-104 minutes	n/a	Add \$280	Add \$70
105-119 minutes	n/a	Add \$320	Add \$80
120-134 minutes	n/a	Add \$360	Add \$90
135-149 minutes	n/a	Add \$400	Add \$100
150-164 minutes	n/a	Add \$440	Add \$110
165-179 minutes	n/a	Add \$480	Add \$120
180+ minutes	n/a	Add \$480*	Add \$120*

\*The 180+ minutes line is paid at the same amount as 165-179 minutes line. For additional reporting purposes only.