

Brain Injury Rehabilitation Program - Fees Policy

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Functional Sub group Corporate Administration - Fees

Summary Fees Policy that applies to brain injury rehabilitation services provided by the statewide network of Brain Injury Rehabilitation Program (BIRP) units for compensable patients requiring brain injury rehabilitation services.

Replaces Doc. No. Brain Injury Rehabilitation Program - Schedule of Fees [PD2005_623]

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Director-General

This Policy Directive may be varied, withdrawn or replaced at any time. Compliance with this directive is **mandatory** for NSW Health and is a condition of subsidy for public health organisations.

BRAIN INJURY REHABILITATION PROGRAM – FEES POLICY

The schedule of fees applicable to brain injury rehabilitation services provided by the statewide network of Brain Injury Rehabilitation Program (BIRP) units for **compensable** patients requiring brain injury rehabilitation services are advised separately via Information Bulletin. Commencing 1 July 2006 it is intended that BIRP fees will be adjusted annually in July each year.

The fee for the daily bed rate for inpatient BIRP rehabilitation units and inpatient transitional living units (TLU) is an average daily bed rate reflecting the differences in the level of support provided to compensable patients, for example, in the level of nursing care required and the differences in the amount of therapy provided.

Designated BIRP Units

The daily bed rate for compensable inpatients can only be charged by the following **designated Inpatient BIRP Rehabilitation units**: Westmead, Liverpool and Royal Rehabilitation Centre.

The daily bed rate for **Inpatient Transitional Living Units and non-inpatient services** can only be charged by the following designated BIRP units:

- Westmead Hospital Brain Injury Rehabilitation Service
- Liverpool Hospital Brain Injury Rehabilitation Unit
- Royal Rehabilitation Centre Sydney Brain Injury Unit
- South West Brain Injury Rehabilitation Service
- Southern Area Brain Injury Service
- Hunter Brain Injury Service
- Dubbo Brain Injury Rehabilitation Program
- New England Brain Injury Rehabilitation Program
- Mid West Brain Injury Rehabilitation Program

Services that provide **non-inpatient services** only and can charge for these are:

- Children's Hospital Westmead
- Sydney Children's Hospital
- Illawarra Brain Injury Service
- North Coast Head Injury Service

When an inpatient within a NSW public hospital, other than a designated BIRP facility, is required to be seen by BIRP staff for the purpose of preparing rehabilitation reports or plans for Insurance purposes charges can be raised in accordance with the scheduled non-inpatient rate.

The BIRP schedule of fees applies only to compensable patients admitted to an inpatient BIRP rehabilitation unit or an inpatient Transitional Living Unit and compensable non-inpatient services.

Non-compensable patients admitted to BIRP units will be covered under the Australian Health Care Agreement arrangements.

For compensable patients with traumatic brain injury who are inpatients in a NSW public hospital other than a facility with a designated Inpatient BIRP Rehabilitation unit or an inpatient Transitional Living Unit, the bulk billing agreement will apply in relation

to Compulsory Third Party patients and the 'Compensable Patients' rates will apply in relation to other classes of compensable patients eg Workers' Compensation patients.

For DOHRS activity reporting, both inpatient BIRP Rehabilitation Unit and inpatient TLU activity will be classified as Institution Type G (General Hospital) for separations dated from 1 July 2003. Prior to 1 July 2003, Inpatient BIRP Rehabilitation Unit activity will be classified as Institution Type G (General Hospital) and Transitional Living Unit activity will be classified as Institution Type C (Community Residential).

Inpatient BIRP Rehabilitation Units and Inpatient Transitional Living Units

There are three categories that apply to patients in Inpatient BIRP Rehabilitation Units and Inpatient Transitional Living Units. The categories determine which daily bed day rate is paid.

Category A applies to patients who are being assessed for or receiving active rehabilitation.

Category B applies to patients who are not on an active rehabilitation program but who are resident in a BIRP facility. These patients are receiving nursing and/or personal care assistance, regular monitoring of their medical condition, medical care and case management as appropriate. This category includes but is not limited to patients who are admitted for respite care or patients who have finished their rehabilitation program and are waiting for a transfer, placement or appropriate accommodation elsewhere.

Category X is for the rare patient who requires an extremely high level of support such as two to one care. It is only to be used in very specific circumstances, for instance where the patient has severe or extreme behavioural problems and cannot be managed without constant close supervision, generally requiring temporary additional staffing.

The BIRP unit will nominate the most appropriate category classification for a patient and identify the proposed classification on the rehabilitation plan submitted to the Insurer, and update the classification in the progress reports. Insurers may seek clarification of the classification if necessary in the course of reviewing the rehabilitation plans and progress reports.

1. INPATIENT BIRP REHABILITATION UNITS

Category A, B or X per diem rates apply as appropriate.

2. INPATIENT TRANSITIONAL LIVING UNITS

Category A or B per diem rates apply as appropriate.

3. NON-INPATIENT SERVICES INCLUDING OUTREACH

Are charged at the cumulative half-hour rate.

These services will be detailed in the rehabilitation plan submitted by the unit to the Insurer. Where the time for the services is accumulated eg for telephone calls the date of the service on the account will be the last occasion of service to make the

half hour period. The services may include but are not limited to monitoring of the patient, case management, conferences with outside parties and travelling.

Where patients are effectively receiving a transitional living program but are resident in the community rather than a TLU/facility, the fee for the service will be at the half hourly rate but the fee shall not be greater than the equivalent of 5 hours per day of non-inpatient care.

4. OUTPATIENT MEDICAL CLINIC APPOINTMENTS

Outpatient medical appointments will be charged at a standard rate per consultation type and will cover an occasion of service by an attending medical officer.

- **Medical Consultation - New** applies to a new patient referred for medical assessment by an attending medical officer and are charged at the standard rate.
- **Medical Consultation – Review** applies to follow-up appointments of a patient by an attending medical officer and are charged at the standard rate.

5. REPORTS

Reports will be charged for as per the NSW Health Policy Directive PD2005_235 that is updated periodically.

Reports that are part of the rehabilitation process such as rehabilitation plans, progress reports and case closures will be charged at the same half hourly rate as non-inpatient services.

6. GROUP ACTIVITIES

Group activities that form part of the rehabilitation plan will be charged at a standard rate per group type and will cover an occasion of service.

Group activities - qualified applies to those group activities directly supervised by a qualified allied health clinician and are charged at the cumulative half hour rate.

Group activities - unqualified applies to those group activities not directly supervised by a qualified allied health clinician and are charged at the cumulative half hour rate.

Robyn Kruk
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