



16 February 2015

Dr Michael Steiner  
President  
Australian Society of Ophthalmologists  
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Dear Dr Steiner

**Compliance activities for referred specialist and consultant physician attendances**

As part of the Department of Human Services' consultative approach to compliance activities, we regularly engage with industry bodies and representative groups regarding our compliance strategies.

We recently completed the first phase of compliance activities relating to Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) items 104, 105, 110, 116 and 119 which identified claiming of referred attendance items without a valid referral. These audits also identified a secondary concern that health professionals claimed more than one initial attendance (MBS items 104 or 110) for the same course of treatment.

The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the second phase of planned compliance activities relating to these items. The compliance activities will involve a mixture of targeted and randomly selected health professionals where it appears that they have claimed:

- more than one initial attendance (MBS item 104 or 110) for the same patient using the same referral details (referring health professional and date of referral).
- subsequent attendances (MBS item 105, 116 or 119) where the department cannot identify an initial attendance for that patient with the same referral details.
- initial attendances (MBS item 104 or 110) where our data shows the referral date is more than 12 months prior to the date of the attendance.

We anticipate the activities will commence in early-mid February 2015 and we understand that this activity may prompt questions from your members. If you wish to discuss the strategy or if you have any questions, please contact

- Mr Christopher Lake, Director on 07 3352 2542 / 0403 193 178
- Email: [compliance.gpandspecialists@humanservices.gov.au](mailto:compliance.gpandspecialists@humanservices.gov.au)

Yours sincerely

Chris Lake  
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