

ASMOF does not provide advice to members regarding Medicare specific billing inquiries. However, below is some general information (see below 'Rule of Thumb') and the relevant authority.

Billing under Medical Practitioner's name/Provider Number

Rule of thumb

As a rule of thumb, the following observations can be made about the use of provider numbers in public hospitals:

- where medical services claimed against Medicare are being rendered in public hospitals under a medical practitioner's name and billing provider number, the practitioner must be made fully aware of and accept responsibility for that billing;
- if Members have any concerns about the legality of such arrangements, you should seek a written guarantee from the hospital that the arrangement is not in breach of the relevant Australian Health Care Agreement; and
- public hospitals must provide medical practitioners with full records of all medical accounts raised in their name.

In addition, if you have concerns and/or if the hospital is unable or willing to provide you with a written guarantee, then it is prudent for you to contact the Medicare assistance line (provided below).

Email to Medicare regarding specific Medicare billing inquiries to medicare.prov@humanservices.gov.au.

An email exchange with Medicare enables a documented paper trail in the event of any audit and compliance issues.

Further information can also be found at the Health Professionals Online Services (HPOS): <https://www.humanservices.gov.au/health-professionals/subjects/billing-medicare-public-hospitals>