



**Australian Government**  

---

**Department of Veterans' Affairs**

**NOTES FOR  
ALLIED HEALTH PROVIDERS  
SECTION 2(i)  
OSTEOPATHS**

This section of the Notes for Allied Health Providers must be read in conjunction with Section 1 – General

## Table of Contents

Providing osteopathic services	2
Types of osteopathic services that can be provided	2
Treatment Cycle	2
Prior financial authorisation	2
Treatment thresholds/limits	2
Restrictions on services	2
Rehabilitation Appliances Program	3

### **Providing osteopathic services**

These Notes should be read in conjunction with Notes for Allied Health Providers Section One: General.

1. Only an osteopath who is registered with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) and has been issued with a provider number by the Department of Human Services at the time of service is eligible to provide services to entitled persons.

Note: An osteopath with a dual degree e.g. osteopathy/ chiropractic, who is registered with DHS in both disciplines, can only claim for one specialty type per client on the same day.

### **Types of osteopathic services that can be provided**

2. The Repatriation Commission and the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission (the Commissions) will only accept financial responsibility for osteopathic services involving treatment of the musculo-skeletal system. The services that the Commissions will accept are listed in the *DVA Osteopath Schedule of Fees*. No other treatment will be accepted.

### **Treatment Cycle**

3. For information on the treatment cycle arrangements, which came into effect on 1 October 2019, refer to Notes for Allied Health Providers Section One: General [clauses 24-46].

### **Prior financial authorisation**

4. The specific item numbers requiring prior financial authorisation are indicated by shading and an asterisk (\*) in the *DVA Osteopaths Schedule of Fees*. Please consult this document to identify those items requiring prior financial authorisation. Fee schedules are available at:

[http://www.dva.gov.au/service\\_providers/Fee\\_schedules/Pages/Dental\\_and\\_Allied\\_Health.aspx](http://www.dva.gov.au/service_providers/Fee_schedules/Pages/Dental_and_Allied_Health.aspx)

5. For information on how to seek prior financial authorisation, refer to Notes for Allied Health Providers Section One: General [clauses 51-56].

### **Treatment thresholds/limits**

6. For information on treatment thresholds and limits refer to Notes for Allied Health Providers Section One: General.

### **Restrictions on services**

7. While all osteopathic services claimed must be in accordance with the patient's clinical need, the following specific restrictions exist:

- only one initial consultation can be claimed per treatment cycle. Should a patient require an additional treatment cycle, their GP will issue a new referral which will result in another initial consultation;
- a subsequent consultation cannot be provided on the same day as an initial consultation for the same patient;
- only one subsequent consultation item per patient can be provided each day;
- concurrent delivery of osteopathic and physiotherapy services; or osteopathic and chiropractic services for the same condition to any entitled person is not permitted; and
- an osteopathic consultation cannot be claimed on the same day as an exercise physiology service to treat the same condition. When booking a treatment session with a DVA client osteopaths must check to ensure a DVA funded exercise physiology service is not being provided on the same day to treat the same condition.

### **Rehabilitation Appliances Program**

8. Osteopaths are recognised prescribers of certain appliances under the Department's *Rehabilitation Appliances Program* (RAP). When utilising the RAP scheme, prescribers must issue the RAP item prescription to the appropriate contracted supplier. You should contact the RAP section to obtain full details including which appliances you can prescribe, prescription forms and information on contracted RAP suppliers.
9. Further information on RAP, including which providers are eligible to prescribe RAP items, is available on the DVA website or by contacting DVA [see clause 153 for details]. The RAP schedule of items can be found at:

<http://www.dva.gov.au/providers/provider-programmes/rehabilitation-appliances-program-rap>