

TRANSITION TO MODIFIED MONASH MODEL

TRANSITION OF RURAL SUPPORT PROGRAMS FROM PHARIA TO THE MODIFIED MONASH RURAL CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM FROM 1 JULY 2021

In 2015, the Department of Health introduced the Modified Monash Model (MMM) classification system as it better targets health workforce programs by categorising metropolitan, regional, rural and remote areas according to both geographical remoteness, as defined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, and town size.

As outlined in the Seventh Community Pharmacy Agreement (7CPA) between the Australian Government, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia (the Guild) and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA), there is a commitment to increasing investment in regional, rural and remote areas.

The Department of Health, in conjunction with the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, has therefore made the decision to adopt the use of the MMM for the Rural Support Programs from **1 July 2021**, to ensure greater support for regional, rural and remote pharmacy students, interns, pharmacists and pharmacies.

An overview of the 7CPA Programs transitioning from the Pharmacy Access/Remoteness Index of Australia (PhARIA) rural classification system to the MMM is provided below. The Pharmacy Programs Administrator (PPA) will also shortly be emailing additional Program-specific information to participants who are currently registered for these Programs in the PPA Portal.

Further information on the MMM rural classification system can be found here:

<https://www.rdaa.com.au/documents/item/740> and

<https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2019/12/modified-monash-model---fact-sheet.pdf>.

The MM category of a location can be found on the Department's website available here:

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/apps-and-tools/health-workforce-locator/health-workforce-locator>.

Please note the PhARIA [website](#) will no longer be available from early July 2021. Program participants should therefore ensure if they need to check the PhARIA category of any location that they do so prior to 1 July 2021.

Emergency Locum Service (ELS)

The ELS supports community pharmacies in rural and remote areas through direct access to pharmacist locums in emergency situations. Locums are deployed at short notice, generally in under 24 hours, to provide relief in urgent and emergency situations.

From 1 July 2021, pharmacy eligibility for the ELS will transition from PhARIA 2-6 locations to MM 3-7 locations.

For pharmacies that become ineligible for the Service due to reclassification, an application for an emergency locum made prior to 1 July 2021 for placement on or after 1 July 2021 will still be permitted. For example, a pharmacy in a PhARIA 2 location that is reclassified to MM2 after 1 July 2021 will still be able to have an emergency locum placed on or after 1 July 2021 if the application was received by the ELS Provider **before** 1 July 2021.

Updated Program Rules will be published on the [ELS webpage](#) on 1 July 2021.

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Intern Incentive Allowance for Rural Pharmacies (IIARP) and Extension Program (IIARP-EP)

The IIARP and the IIARP-Extension Programs aim to improve the rural and remote workforce by providing incentive payments to pharmacy owners or eligible hospital authorities offering a placement for an intern pharmacist or newly registered pharmacist in a rural or remote pharmacy.

From 1 July 2021, IIARP eligible locations will transition from PhARIA 2-6 to MM 3-7, and locations eligible for IIARP-EP will transition from PhARIA 4-6 to MM 5-7.

Program Registrations and Applications received up until 30 June 2021 will continue to be assessed against the current PhARIA classification system.

All pharmacies currently registered in the PPA Portal for IIARP and/or IIARP-EP will receive an email with further information on what this change means for them.

Additional FAQs regarding the MMM are now available on the [IIARP webpage](#). Updated Program Rules for IIARP and IIARP-EP will be published once the transition takes effect on 1 July 2021.

Home Medicines Review – Rural Loading Allowance (HMR-RLA)

The HMR-RLA aims to facilitate access to HMR services for patients who live in rural or remote areas. The Allowance funds up to \$125 (GST exclusive) to contribute towards the travel costs incurred by the Pharmacist travelling to the patient's home.

From 1 July 2021, eligible patient home locations for the HMR-RLA will transition from PhARIA 2-6 to MM 3-7 locations.

HMR initial services and/or Follow-Up services undertaken until 30 June 2021 will be assessed against the current PhARIA classification system, noting that the HMR-RLA claim assessment will be based on patient interview date, not claim submission date.

Updated Program Rules and additional FAQs regarding the MMM change will be published on the [HMR webpage](#) on 1 July 2021.

Rural Continuing Professional Education (CPE) Allowance

The CPE Allowance assists pharmacists from rural and remote areas to access Continuing Professional Development (CPD) activities by providing financial support for travel and accommodation. The CPE Allowance also provides funding for professional educators to travel to a rural or remote location to deliver CPD activities to a group of practising pharmacists.

From 1 July 2021, pharmacists working and residing in MM categories 3 to 7, and professional educators who travel to MM 3 to 7 locations to deliver approved CPE activities, will be eligible to participate in the Rural CPE Allowance. MM categories 1 and 2 are considered highly accessible areas, therefore, work or home addresses located within these categories will no longer meet the eligibility requirements for participation in the Allowance.

All users currently registered in the PPA Portal for the CPE Allowance will receive an email with further information about what this change means for them.

Updated Program Rules and additional FAQs regarding the MMM change will be published on the [CPE webpage](#) on 1 July 2021.

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Rural Intern Training Allowance (RITA)

The RITA assists intern pharmacists practicing in rural and remote areas to access compulsory training activities required as part of their Intern Training Program by providing financial support for travel and accommodation.

From 1 July 2021, intern pharmacists working and residing in MM categories 3 to 7 will be eligible to participate in the RITA. MM categories 1 and 2 are considered highly accessible areas, therefore, work or home addresses located within these categories will no longer meet the eligibility requirements for participation in the Allowance.

All intern pharmacists currently registered in the PPA Portal for the Allowance will receive an email with further information about what this change means for them.

Updated Program Rules and additional FAQs regarding the MMM change will be published on the [RITA webpage](#) on 1 July 2021.

Rural Pharmacy Student Placement Allowance and Administrative Support to Pharmacy Schools Scheme

The Rural Pharmacy Student Placement Allowance Program provides financial support to Australian universities to assist with students' travel and accommodation costs for participating in placements in rural and remote areas.

From 1 July 2021, eligible rural placement locations will transition from PhARIA 2-6 to MM 3-7 locations.

Placements with a start date on or after 1 July 2021, must take place in a MM 3 – 7 location for the student to be eligible to receive the Placement Allowance.

Updated Program Rules and additional details regarding the MMM change will be available on the [Rural Pharmacy Student Placement Allowance webpage](#) on 1 July 2021.

Scholarship and Mentor Programs

Scholarship Programs

The Scholarship Programs aim to encourage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and students from rural and remote communities to undertake undergraduate or postgraduate studies in pharmacy at an Australian university.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Pharmacy Scholarship Scheme (ATSIPSS) and Rural Pharmacy Scholarship Scheme (RPSS) will continue under the PhARIA rural classification system for the remainder of the 2021 academic year.

Further correspondence regarding how the transition to the MMM may impact the Scholarship Programs will be distributed to individual scholarship holders shortly.

Rural Pharmacy Scholarship Mentor Scheme (RPSMS)

The RPSMS aims to encourage and support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander scholars and scholars from rural and remote locations to undertake undergraduate and graduate studies in pharmacy at an Australian university, by providing guidance and support from a practising rural Pharmacist Mentor during each year of their pharmacy studies.

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From 1 July 2021, the RPSMS will transition from the PhARIA rural classification system to the MMM. Eligible work locations for practising pharmacists will transition from PhARIA 2-6 locations to MM 3-7 locations.

Mentors currently practicing in an eligible PhARIA location who become ineligible for the Scheme based on their MM location on 1 July 2021, can continue mentoring and will be paid as normal for any RPSS or ATSIPSS scholars they have an existing relationship with. They will not however, be eligible to mentor any new additional scholars going forward from 1 July 2021.

Further correspondence regarding how the transition to the MMM may impact the Mentor Scheme will be distributed to individual Mentors shortly.

Additional FAQs regarding the MMM are now available on the [RPSMS webpage](#). Updated Program Rules for RPSMS will be published once the transition takes effect on 1 July 2021.