BILLING GUIDE · CLAIM ACCURACY

Monthly anaesthetic billing self-check: *fifteen minutes, once a month.*

The monthly check

- ☐ Compare the cases in your own record with the cases billed. Anything missing or doubled?
- ☐ Pick five long cases and recount the time units from the recorded start and end times
- ☐ Check every physical status (25000–25010) or age modifier (25013 under 4, 25014 aged 75+) has its reason in the notes
- ☐ Check every emergency case has one emergency modifier, not both 25020 and 25025, with times shown
- ☐ Check same-day attendances have a time or separate-occasion note, and 17615–17625 have a written plan
- ☐ List every rejected or queried claim, its reason code and the date you followed it up
- ☐ Check every patient who paid a gap received a written estimate first

Claim order (out-of-order claims are rejected)

1. Basic unit item(s): only the highest is paid
2. One time item (23010–24136): start and end times in the notes
3. Physical status modifier (25000–25010)
4. Age modifier (25013 or 25014)
5. In-hours emergency modifier (25020)
6. Therapeutic and diagnostic items
7. After-hours emergency modifier (25025): last, with start, end and total times

Time units

One unit per 15 minutes or part of 15 minutes up to two hours, then one unit per 10 minutes or part of 10 minutes. Examples: 1 h 10 min = 5 units · 2 h = 8 units · 2 h 25 min = 11 units · 3 h = 14 units. Check the current item descriptors on MBS Online.

Common reason codes

208 card expired · 211 patient not covered by card at date of service · 217 patient can't be identified · 320 card number incorrect · 162 / 703 / 620 duplicate · 111 service over 2 years old · 280 resubmit with correct MBS item.

Sources (checked 24 October 2026): Services Australia, MBS billing for anaesthesia items (Nov 2025) and Relative Value Guide for anaesthesia billing (Mar 2024); Department of Health anaesthesia quick reference guides (May 2020, Mar 2022); Services Australia, Medicare reason codes; GMST Regulations 2021. Check item descriptors on MBS Online before billing. General information only.

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