

Medicare Local After Hours Program FactSheet

From 1 July 2011 a mandatory role of the ACT Medicare Local is to address after hours primary care needs of the region and ensure that they are coordinated and appropriate to community needs. ACTML will support health professionals in the arrangement and provision of these services.

What does the After Hours Program do?

Works with stakeholders to identify and assess existing after hours primary care service capacity in the ACT. Develop an understanding of the local community after hours primary care needs and implement local plans developed through health professional and community consultation to enhance the availability of after hours primary care in the region.

ACTML is currently developing a “Known Gap Filling” plan for implementation from 1 January 2012 to 30 June 2013 to address recognised priority needs in After Hours primary care in the ACT.

Following analysis of a comprehensive needs assessment currently being undertaken and in close consultation with stakeholders, a further plan will be developed for implementation from 1 July 2013. The After Hours Practice Incentive Program will cease from this time. ACTML is committed to ensuring current providers of quality after hours primary care are supported to build upon arrangements that are meeting community need.

How can the After Hours Program help you?

- Assist general practices to commence, continue or extend after hours services.
- Raise consumer awareness of what options are available in the after hours period and when to seek them to ensure appropriate care.
- Liaise with and support clinicians to ensure that information is being provided to the ACT (and later National) Health Service Directory.

Who does the After Hours Program engage with?

Extensive engagement will take place a broad range of stakeholders including:

- General practices
- Canberra After Hours Locum Medical Service (CALMS)
- ACT Health Directorate services including Emergency Departments at Calvary and The Canberra Hospital
- Community pharmacy
- Other Medicare Locals
- Neighbouring Divisions of General Practice
- Community service organisations
- Consumers.

What has the After Hours Program achieved?

- The After Hours Program Reference Group has been established.



Connecting health to meet local needs

- Mapping of existing after hours primary care services has commenced as well as health service and community consultation.
- A plan to address immediate gaps in after hours primary care is being developed in consultation with key stakeholders for implementation from 1 Jan 2012.

Who can help you?

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