

To: minister.butler@health.gov.au

Subject: Request for prioritisation of sport and exercise physician-led care within the Medicare Benefits Schedule

Dear Minister Butler,

I am writing to you today to ask for your prioritisation of Sport and Exercise Physician (SEP)-led care within the Medicare Benefits Schedule. The Medicare Benefits Schedule Review Advisory Committee (MRAC) has already recognised the value of SEP-led care in its recent review, emphasising how this type of care improves patient outcomes, reduces reliance on surgery and medication, and enhances comprehensive care management.

Currently, the Medicare Benefits Schedule only assigns item numbers suitable for short consultations and procedural care – leaving patients to pay the highest patient co-payment for initial consultations and the second highest for follow-ups. This disparity is not only financially burdensome but also inequitable, limiting access for those who could benefit the most from SEP-led care.

SEP-led care is proven to provide a holistic approach to health, supporting faster recovery times, greater long-term patient wellbeing, and significant reductions in healthcare costs over time. Expanding the Medicare coverage for SEP services would help address healthcare inequities and ensure all Australians have access to the best possible care.

SEP-led care is impactful for all – and the lack of equity in access to it privileges few.

Now is the time to relieve healthcare inequity. This is only possible with appropriate funding and delivery of quality healthcare for all.

I urge you to adopt the MRAC's recommendation to reclassify Sport and Exercise Medicine Physicians as consultant physicians, granting them access to Group A4 MBS items.

Thank you for your consideration.

[Name]