

## Definitions of the Various Licensable Healthcare Services under the Healthcare Services Act (HCSA)

This document summarises the definitions of the various Licensable Healthcare Services as stipulated under the HCSA.

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For more information on the definitions, please refer to the [First Schedule of the Act](#).

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## 1. Acute Hospital Service

This means:

- (a) A healthcare service that is provided to a patient for the purposes of triaging to determine whether the patient needs to be admitted as an inpatient to receive care or treatment and (if it is determined that the patient need not be so admitted) stabilising his or her medical condition;
- (b) Any of the following healthcare services that is provided to an inpatient to treat a brief but severe episode of illness or any disease or trauma, or during recovery from surgery:
  - (i) the examination of the inpatient's body or mind;
  - (ii) the assessment of the inpatient's health;
  - (iii) the observation and diagnosis of, and intervention in, the inpatient's health condition;
  - (iv) the treatment of the inpatient for any condition, disability, disease, disorder or injury;
  - (v) the provision of medical care or dental care to the inpatient while the inpatient is being accommodated to receive that care;
  - (vi) the performance of either of the following which changes, or is intended to change, the inpatient's appearance or anatomy: (A) a clinical procedure; (B) an invasive procedure that penetrates beyond the epidermis layer of the inpatient's skin;
  - (vii) the treatment of an inpatient who requires antenatal care, intrapartum care or postnatal care
- (c) Any other healthcare service that is incidental to the provision of a healthcare service mentioned in paragraph (a) or (b), **including** — (i) the conduct of any simple in vitro diagnostic test on the patient; and (ii) the conduct of any ultrasound imaging on the patient, but excludes a clinical laboratory service and a radiological service.

## 2. Ambulatory Surgical Centre Service

This means:

- (a) The provision of any surgical procedure, or other procedure that is performed with the administration of anaesthetics, to an individual who, at the start of the procedure, is not assessed by a medical practitioner or dentist to require accommodation for the purposes of receiving medical observation or care for a period exceeding 12 hours after the individual is admitted for the procedure; and
- (b) Any ancillary healthcare service.

However, it **excludes** any of the following:

- (c) Provision of any relevant procedure that does not require general anaesthesia, by a person who is licensed to provide any of the following licensable healthcare services:
  - i. A community hospital service;
  - ii. A contingency care service;
  - iii. An outpatient dental service;
  - iv. An outpatient medical service;
  - v. An outpatient renal dialysis service;
- (d) Provision of any relevant procedure by a person who is licensed to provide an acute hospital service to any inpatient;
- (e) Provision of any relevant procedure that is an assisted reproduction procedure by a person who is licensed to provide an assisted reproduction service;
- (f) Provision of any relevant procedure that is performed with the administration of anaesthetics by a person who is licensed to provide a nuclear medicine service or radiological service.

### 3. Assisted Reproduction Service

This means the provision of any of the following services for the treatment or prevention of infertility:

- (a) The collection of oocytes from a woman, other than by way of surgical excision of the woman's ovarian tissue;
- (b) The screening of persons who donate reproductive cells or embryos;
- (c) The handling, procurement, processing, testing or storage of reproductive cells or embryos for the subsequent distribution (including for the transfer into the body of a woman) of the reproductive cells or embryos;
- (d) The transfer of any oocyte or embryo into the body of a woman; (e) any medical treatment, clinical care or laboratory procedures incidental to the services mentioned in paragraph (a), (b), (c) or (d)

However, it **excludes** the provision of any artificial insemination procedure or any other procedure incidental to the provision of an artificial insemination procedure.

#### 4. Blood Banking Service

This means a service relating to blood or blood components for therapeutic transfusion that comprises all or any of the following activities:

- (a) The collection of blood or blood components;
- (b) The testing, processing and distribution of blood or blood components;
- (c) The storage of blood or blood components incidental to any activity mentioned in paragraph (a) or (b),

It **includes** the conduct of any simple in vitro diagnostic test on an individual.

However, it **excludes** any of the following:

- (d) The temporary storage of any blood or blood component by a specified person, where the storage is incidental to the provision of the blood or blood component to the patients of the specified person;
- (e) The temporary storage by a specified person (A) of any blood or blood component received from another specified person (B), where — (i) the blood or blood component is intended to be provided by A to B's patients; and (ii) the storage is incidental to A's provision of the blood or blood component to B's patients;
- (f) The distribution of any blood or blood component to a specified person (C) on a named patient basis, where C does not further distribute the blood or blood component to another specified person (D) for use by any patient of D other than on a named patient basis;
- (g) The distribution of any blood or blood component that is approaching its expiry date in the possession of a specified person to another specified person, for the sole purpose of preventing the wastage of the blood or blood component, as the case may be;
- (h) The distribution of any blood or blood component in the possession of a specified person to another specified person in response to a national emergency or any other emergency (such as a fire or an explosion) that causes loss of life or injury to individuals;
- (i) A cord blood banking service.

## 5. Clinical Laboratory Service

This means the examination or testing of any matter derived, obtained or excreted from the body of any individual for any of the following purposes:

- (a) Assessing the health or genetic predisposition of that individual or any other individual;
- (b) Predicting or providing a prognosis of the health condition of that individual or any other individual;
- (c) Diagnosing any condition, disability, disease, disorder or injury of that individual or any other individual;
- (d) Determining the intervention to be taken, or the effect of any intervention taken, of any condition, disability, disease, disorder or injury of an individual;
- (e) Ascertaining the result of a medical or surgical treatment given to that individual or any other individual;
- (f) Assessing the health, condition or suitability of any human biological material that is used, or is intended to be used, in relation to any healthcare service,

It also **includes** the storage or distribution of any blood or blood component incidental to the examination or testing of the blood or blood component for a purpose specified in paragraphs (a) to (f).

However, it **excludes** any of the following:

- (g) The testing of any matter derived, obtained or excreted from the body of any individual that only involves the use of a simple in vitro diagnostic test by a person who is licensed to provide any of the following licensable healthcare services, where the testing is incidental to the provision of the licensable healthcare service:
  - i. An acute hospital service;
  - ii. An ambulatory surgical centre service;
  - iii. An assisted reproduction service;
  - iv. A blood banking service;
  - v. A community hospital service;
  - vi. A contingency care service;
  - vii. An emergency ambulance service;
  - viii. A medical transport service;
  - ix. A nuclear medicine service;
  - x. An outpatient dental service;
  - xi. An outpatient medical service;
  - xii. An outpatient renal dialysis service;
  - xiii. A radiological service
- (h) The examination of a breath sample to determine its aggregate physical characteristics (including its weight, volume or rate of flow) and not to determine the presence or quantity of any component matter;

- (i) the testing of any matter derived, obtained or excreted from the body of any individual that only involves the use of a simple in vitro diagnostic test —
  - i. by a person licensed under the Private Hospitals and Medical Clinics Act 1980 to use any premises as a private hospital that is a nursing home; and
  - ii. that is incidental to the provision of services authorised under the Private Hospitals and Medical Clinics Act 1980 to be provided in the nursing home by that person

## 6. Community Hospital Service

This means:

- (a) Any of the following healthcare services that is provided to an inpatient who, having been treated for any disease or trauma or having undergone surgery, needs to receive constant medical oversight by a medical practitioner, for the purpose of assisting the inpatient to regain his or her health or physical functions or providing palliative care to the inpatient:
  - i. The examination of the inpatient's body or mind;
  - ii. The assessment of the inpatient's health;
  - iii. The observation and diagnosis of, and intervention in, the inpatient's health condition;
  - iv. The treatment of the inpatient for any condition, disability, disease, disorder or injury;
  - v. The provision of medical care or dental care to the inpatient while the inpatient is being accommodated to receive that care;
  - vi. The performance of either of the following which changes, or is intended to change, the inpatient's appearance or anatomy: (A) a clinical procedure; (B) an invasive procedure that penetrates beyond the epidermis layer of the inpatient's skin;
  - vii. The rehabilitation of an inpatient
- (b) Any other healthcare service that is incidental to the provision of a healthcare service mentioned in paragraph (a)(i) to (vii), including:
  - i. The conduct of any simple in vitro diagnostic test on the inpatient; and
  - ii. The conduct of any ultrasound imaging on the inpatient,

However, it **excludes** the following:

- (c) Any specialised treatment given to an inpatient who is acutely unwell and requires critical medical care;
- (d) The conduct of any surgical procedure, other than a minor dental surgical procedure or minor surgical procedure;
- (e) The provision of any treatment or conduct of any procedure on an inpatient that requires the inpatient to be in a state of general anaesthesia;
- (f) The administration of any anaesthetic to cause general anaesthesia in an inpatient.



## 7. Cord Blood Banking Service

This means:

- (a) the handling, processing and storage of cord blood;
- (b) the distribution of cord blood for use with any individual (including the individual from whom the cord blood was obtained);

It also **includes** the screening of donors of cord blood.

## **8. Emergency Ambulance Service**

This means:

- (a) The conveyance by land using an emergency ambulance of any patient (including an emergency patient);
- (b) The provision of clinical care to, and the clinical monitoring of, the patient while the patient is being conveyed in the emergency ambulance.

## 9. Human Tissue Banking Service

This means the handling, processing, testing, storage and distribution of any human tissue (other than a specified human tissue) that is:

- (a) Collected or derived from the body of an individual; and
- (b) Intended to be distributed for subsequent therapeutic use,

However, it **excludes** the handling, processing and temporary storage of any human tissue that is intended for transplant for therapeutic purposes within 48 hours after the human tissue is collected or derived from the body of an individual.

## **10. Medical Transport Service**

This means:

- (a) The conveyance by land using a medical transport of any patient (except a patient who is an emergency patient before being conveyed); and
- (b) The clinical care and monitoring of the patient, if necessary, while the patient is being conveyed in the medical transport.

## 11. Nuclear Medicine Service

This means the administration of radiopharmaceuticals to a patient for or in relation to the assessment, diagnosis, treatment, prevention or alleviation of any ailment, condition, disability, disease, disorder or injury affecting any part of the body or mind of the patient, and **includes**:

- (a) The provision of any healthcare service that is incidental to the provision of the administration of radiopharmaceuticals, including—
  - i. the conduct of any simple in vitro diagnostic test on the patient; and
  - ii. the conduct of any ultrasound imaging on the patient.
- (b) The derivation, after the administration of radiopharmaceuticals, of any specimen from the patient;
- (c) The testing of any specimen mentioned in paragraph (b) using beta scintillation or gamma counting; and
- (d) The imaging, after the administration of radiopharmaceuticals, of the individual through the use of any irradiating apparatus;

## 12. Outpatient Dental Service

This means any of the following healthcare services that is provided to an outpatient:

- (a) The performance of any procedure and the treatment of any disease, deficiency, deformity, malposition or lesion on or of the outpatient's teeth or jaws or associated structures, whether intraorally or extraorally;
- (b) The performance of radiographic work in connection with the outpatient's teeth or jaws or associated structures;
- (c) The administration of an anaesthetic in connection with any procedure on the outpatient's teeth or jaws or associated structures;
- (d) The performance of any procedure on, or the giving of any treatment, advice or attendance to, an outpatient as preparatory to, or for the purpose of or for or in connection with, the fitting, inserting, fixing, constructing, repairing or renewing of dentures or dental appliances;
- (e) The performance of any procedure and the giving of any treatment, advice or attendance as is usually performed or given by dentists;
- (f) Any other healthcare service that is incidental to the provision of a healthcare service mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (e), **including**:
  - i. the conduct of any simple in vitro diagnostic test on the outpatient; and
  - ii. the conduct of any ultrasound imaging on the outpatient,

However, it **excludes** the following:

- (g) The provision of any treatment or conduct of any procedure on an outpatient that requires the outpatient to be in a state of general anaesthesia;
- (h) The administration of any anaesthetic to cause general anaesthesia in an outpatient;
- (i) The conduct of any surgical procedure, other than a minor dental surgical procedure;
- (j) Triaging to determine whether a patient needs to be admitted as an inpatient to receive care or treatment, and (if it is determined that the patient need not be so admitted) stabilising the patient's medical condition;
- (k) Any provision of an ambulatory surgical centre service.

### 13. Outpatient Medical Service

This means any of the following healthcare services that is provided to an outpatient:

- (a) The examination of the outpatient's body or mind;
- (b) The assessment of the outpatient's health;
- (c) The observation and diagnosis of, and intervention in, the outpatient's health condition;
- (d) The treatment of the outpatient for any condition, disability, disease, disorder or injury;
- (e) The provision of medical care to the outpatient;
- (f) The performance of either of the following which changes, or is intended to change, the outpatient's appearance or anatomy:
  - i. A clinical procedure;
  - ii. An invasive procedure that penetrates beyond the epidermis layer of the outpatient's skin;
- (g) Any other healthcare service that is incidental to the provision of a healthcare service mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (f), **including**:
  - i. The conduct of any simple in vitro diagnostic test on the outpatient; and
  - ii. The conduct of any ultrasound imaging on the outpatient,

However, it **excludes** the following:

- (h) The provision of any treatment or conduct of any procedure on an outpatient that requires the outpatient to be in a state of general anaesthesia;
- (i) The administration of any anaesthetic to cause general anaesthesia in an outpatient;
- (j) The conduct of any surgical procedure, other than a minor surgical procedure;
- (k) Triaging to determine whether a patient needs to be admitted as an inpatient to receive care or treatment, and (if it is determined that the patient need not be so admitted) stabilising the patient's medical condition;
- (l) Any provision of haemodialysis, or clinical care that is incidental to the provision of haemodialysis;
- (m) Any provision of an ambulatory surgical centre service, an assisted reproduction service, a clinical laboratory service, a nuclear medicine service or a radiological service;
- (n) The certification of the death of any individual.

#### **14. Outpatient Renal Dialysis Service**

This means the provision of haemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis support only to outpatients.

It also **includes** the provision of any healthcare service that is incidental to the provision of haemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis support, other than a clinical laboratory service or radiological service.

However, it **excludes** the provision of peritoneal dialysis support by a person who is licensed to provide an outpatient medical service.



## 15. Radiological Service

This means the use of ionising or non-ionising radiation for any of the following purposes:

- (a) Examination of the body, or any matter derived from the body, of an individual;
- (b) Assessment of the health or medical condition of an individual;
- (c) Observation and diagnosis of any condition, disability, disease, disorder or injury of an individual;
- (d) Determining, predicting or providing a prognosis of the health or condition of an individual;
- (e) Minimally invasive image-guided biopsy of breast, thyroid, any superficial lump or bump or any superficial lymph node,

However, it **excludes** any of the following:

- (f) The provision of any dental cone beam computed tomography for dental purposes by a person who is licensed to provide an outpatient dental service and approved under section 11D to provide dental cone beam computed tomography;
- (g) The provision of any periapical x-ray or orthopantomogram for dental purposes by a person who is licensed to provide an outpatient dental service;
- (h) The provision of ultrasound imaging by a person who is licensed to provide any of the following licensable healthcare services, where the provision of ultrasound imaging is incidental to the provision of the licensable healthcare service:
  - i. An acute hospital service;
  - ii. An ambulatory surgical centre service;
  - iii. An assisted reproduction service;
  - iv. A community hospital service;
  - v. A contingency care service;
  - vi. A nuclear medicine service;
  - vii. An outpatient dental service;
  - viii. An outpatient medical service;
  - ix. An outpatient renal dialysis service;
- (i) The provision of any radiological examination involving the use of ionising or non-ionising radiation for a purpose mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (e) by a person who is licensed to provide a nuclear medicine service;
- (j) The provision of ultrasound imaging — (i) by a person licensed under the Private Hospitals and Medical Clinics Act 1980 to use any premises as a private hospital that is a nursing home; and (ii) that is incidental to the provision of services authorised under the Private Hospitals and Medical Clinics Act 1980 to be provided in the nursing home by that person