

The Country South SA Medicare Local will officially form on 1 July 2012.

Communities in the Riverland, Limestone Coast and Murray Mallee regions will soon have the benefit of a Medicare Local to support primary care services in the area, through the Country South SA Medicare Local (CSSAML). The Medicare Local program has been established by the Commonwealth Government and evolves from the work of Divisions of General Practice, with the aim of achieving better coordinated and more easily accessible primary health care services in local communities.

A Transition Management Group (TMG) has been set up to progress the business of forming the Medicare Local, and is comprised of the CEOs of each of the founding Divisions of General Practice in the three regions involved, as well as the Adelaide Hills Division. Work of the TMG to-date has been focused on the preliminary arrangements for establishing the Medicare Local, as the formal contracting with the Commonwealth has not yet commenced.

The CSSAML TMG representatives will meet with the Department of Health and Ageing, Primary and Ambulatory Care Division on 5 March 2012, along with representatives from Tranche 1 & 2 Medicare Local and other Tranche 3 preferred applicants. This meeting will focus on a range of Medicare Local matters including: core funding, programs (ATAPS & eHealth), branding, after hours services and other national initiatives (PCEHR & National Call Centre).

The CSSAML TMG is currently working on:

- Due diligence processes
- Development of the framework for a Constitution
- Development of a Joint Venture Agreement between the founding Divisions

The business of the CSSAML will focus on:

- Population health profiling and population health planning to enable the ML to organise and support integrated and co-ordinated services throughout the CSSAML region.
- After Hours health services to enhance current services. Medicare Local imperatives for after hours services include:
 - Minimise disruption to existing services
 - Fill service gaps as required
 - Add value to existing services
 - Implement payment arrangements for continuing existing services
 - Create sustainability

The CSSAML TMG will issue regular updates as to progress on the establishment work, and welcomes any questions or feedback. Details pertaining to local areas can be accessed through contact with the relevant Transition Management Group Member, as follows:

Transition Management Group Members

Bron Marie (Chair), CEO Riverland Division of General Practice
Chris McRae (Lead Agency Representative), CEO Murray Mallee General Practice Network
David Walshaw, CEO Limestone Coast Division of General Practice
Kevin Wisdom-Hill, CEO Adelaide Hills Division of General Practice
Gretchen Scinta, CEO General Practice SA

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