

Blanch, Belinda

From: Christine Brill [execofficer@ama-act.com.au]
Sent: Wednesday, 12 October 2011 6:29 PM
To: Dalins, Marie
Subject: Re: CALMS AND INTERIM AUTHORISATION

Marie, thank you.

On Wed, Oct 12, 2011 at 3:12 PM, Christine Brill <execofficer@ama-act.com.au> wrote:

Marie - The AMA (ACT) Ltd is supportive of the interim authorisation and the authorisation application. The information provided in the application is robust and some additional comments are provided below.

We think that the key issue is the benefit to the community of being aware of a likely maximum out of pocket expense for a particular out of hours consultation.

We understand this has been a cause of the significant, of the order of 50%, increase in the number of consultations being undertaken by CALMS Ltd on an annualised basis over the last six years: the community has felt comfortable with the financial certainty provided by the ACCC authorisation.

Simultaneously, we understand the high level of participation by the GPs of Canberra, either directly as locums (about 11 regular locums at present) or, importantly, via the backup roster (about 80% of Canberra's general practices), is evidence of the acceptance by Canberra's GPs of the reasonableness and flexibility of the 'up to fee schedule'.

The actual values of maximal fees have not been increased since February 2008, and now need to be, to both keep pace with inflation and to maintain the necessary price signal to potential patients of the service that the service is an after-hours service and not to be sought out for routine medical issues that are much more appropriately dealt with during routine business hours, by a regular GP. These are both critical concepts which must be approached with the correct delicate balance to maintain the necessary after-hours roster participation and interest by GPs, and also facilitate the support of daytime GPs in the face of an increasingly small (and potentially burnt out) available local GP workforce.

Regards ... Christine

=====

Christine Brill JP CAE
FSAE FAHRI AFACHSM

Chief Executive Officer
AMA (ACT) Limited
Phone - 02 6270 5419
Fax - 02 6273 0455
Mobile - 0407 123 670
E-mail - execofficer@ama-act.com.au