



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

19 August 2019

Mr Nicholas Voudouris
CEO
Australian Association of Practice Management

Dear Mr Voudouris

I am writing to provide you with further information about the treatment cycle and to outline when DVA will be releasing detailed material to support providers. DVA is committed to maintaining a high level of engagement with GP and allied health provider associations on the treatment cycle arrangements.

The new End of Cycle Report

Under the treatment cycle, the client's usual GP will receive a report from the client's allied health provider at the end of the treatment cycle. The report received by GPs on the client's progress is an important aspect of the treatment cycle and is designed to support good communication between GPs and allied health providers.

It will be important that the report is received by the client's usual GP, as they are the client's care coordinator. The GP will be expected to use the report to review the client's progress and assess if further allied health treatment is clinically required, or whether other treatment options are clinically indicated. Where the client requires a referral for subsequent treatment, this should be managed by the client's usual GP.

Transitioning to the treatment cycle arrangements

DVA understands that GPs need to have certainty about the validity of referrals made prior to 1 October 2019. The following arrangements clarify the requirements.

- All new referrals made on or after 1 October 2019 will be subject to treatment cycle arrangements, except for DVA clients with a TPI embossed Gold Card who are exempt from the treatment cycle for exercise physiology and physiotherapy services.
- Clients with an existing indefinite allied health referral can receive up to 12 sessions or 12 months access (whichever ends first) of allied health treatment after 1 October 2019 before requiring a new GP referral.
- Clients with an existing annual allied health referral can receive up to 12 sessions of allied health treatment after 1 October 2019, or treatment until their annual referral expires (if that occurs first).

Further information

DVA understands it is important to release information about the treatment cycle for providers as early as possible. The indicative timeline below shows when DVA expects to release further resources in the lead up to the treatment cycle.

Week of 19 August	DVA release a Provider News article about the report fee and transition arrangements.
Week of 26 August	Distribute leaflets and information article to provider associations.
Week of 9 September	Publication of provider notes, fee schedules, clinical resources on DVA website. Commence delivering of letters to individual clients and providers.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the valuable ongoing feedback your association has contributed during the design process of this important initiative.

Yours sincerely



Moira Campbell
Assistant Secretary (A/g)
Wellbeing Policy Branch
Department of Veterans' Affairs