



## RIGHTS OF PRIVATE PRACTICE AND QUARTERLY STATEMENTS

The Association has recently received a number of enquiries from Practitioners who are having difficulty in obtaining quarterly statements of income generated in the Practitioner's name consistent with clause 28 (3) of the Industrial Agreements.

The various AMA Industrial Agreements provide as follows:

Clause 27 Private Practice Generally, states in part the following:

- (2) A practitioner at the time of being appointed be granted a right of Private Practice subject to the conditions of this agreement
- (4) A practitioner shall, to the fullest extent permissible by law, exercise rights of private practice in any public teaching hospital or in any other public sector health care facility in which the practitioner works.
- (5) The hospital shall provide to the practitioner a copy of a patient election form or other evidence of an election to be a private patient which would satisfy Medicare Australia or other applicable health insurers of the election to be a private patient for those private patients admitted under the care of the practitioner.
- (6) A practitioner who does not comply with the terms and conditions under which facilities are made available to the practitioner for the purposes of engaging in private practice forfeits the ability to exercise rights of private practice.
- (7) If the employer determines that a practitioner is not exercising rights of private practice to the fullest extent permissible by law, the practitioner forfeits the ability to exercise rights of private practice.

*(Emphasis added)*

Where a Practitioner elects to relinquish all private practice income in or using the hospital's facilities and assigns such private practice income to the employer, the Practitioner shall receive the Arrangement A Allowance in lieu as shown hereunder:

Classification	1-Oct-12
Consultant/ Medical Administrator	\$94,304
Health Service Medical Practitioner	\$63,761
Non Specialist Qualified Medical Administrator/ Senior Medical Practitioner/ Vocationally Registered General Practitioner	\$70,372



Clause 28 Private Practice – Arrangement A subclause (3) states:

- (3) The employer in acting as agent for a practitioner shall ensure that no account is rendered which could place the practitioner in breach of the Health Insurance Act 1973 (Cwth). The employer shall, if requested, provide to the practitioner on a quarterly basis a statement detailing total amount of accounts rendered and amounts collected (exclusive of GST) in the practitioner's name.

(Emphasis added)

Given that the Association is aware that a number of Practitioners have requested quarterly statements which have not been provided, the Association has written to Health Corporate Network (HCN) seeking compliance with the Agreement to provide quarterly statements.

HCN has subsequently advised that it is not responsible for the issuing of quarterly statements.

HCN further advises that the contacts at site that are responsible for the issuing of quarterly statements are as follows:

- North Metropolitan Area Health Service – Mr Trenton Grieve
- South Metropolitan Area health Service – Mr Kevin Copping
- Child and Adolescent Health Service – Mr Gordon Haywood

The Association has been provided with examples of instances where items relating to different specialties have been raised in the Practitioner's name, hence the Association strongly advocates that Practitioners insist on receiving quarterly statements as provided for in clause 28 (3) so that they can reconcile their activity and to ensure that bills are not being sent out in their name that do not comply with the requirements of the Health Insurance Act.

## Further Information

The full provisions are set out in the AMA Industrial Agreement available on the AMA (WA) website at [www.amawa.com.au](http://www.amawa.com.au) Members with any queries should not hesitate to contact Gary Bucknall [Gary.Bucknall@amawa.com.au](mailto:Gary.Bucknall@amawa.com.au) their IHLC Representative or Medical Defence Association if they have any concerns.

## Membership

The AMA reiterates that it is only able to assist financial members of the Association should issues arise in the workplace.

Like your insurance policy, AMA membership provides you with advice and assistance for issues that arise during your membership.

Therefore, Practitioners are strongly advised to join the AMA to ensure that the Association can assist with your future issues. The membership application form on the subsequent page can be completed and sent back to the AMA at 14 Stirling Highway, NEDLANDS WA 6009 or alternatively you can join on-line via [www.amawa.com.au](http://www.amawa.com.au).



# It is time that You Supported the Association that Supports You!

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

**Given Names** \_\_\_\_\_ **Surname** \_\_\_\_\_  
hereby applies to be elected a member of the Australian Medical Association and the Australian Medical Association (WA) Inc.

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

**Preferred Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date of Birth** \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ **M** **F**

**Correspondence Address** \_\_\_\_\_  
**To Home** \_\_\_\_\_ **To Practice** \_\_\_\_\_

**Tel** \_\_\_\_\_ **Mobile** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Practice Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Tel** \_\_\_\_\_ **Mobile** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Practice  
Specialist Specialty/Specialties \_\_\_\_\_ Registrar Speciality \_\_\_\_\_  
Sub Specialty/Specialties \_\_\_\_\_ Level: \_\_\_\_\_  
General Practitioner Specialty/Specialties \_\_\_\_\_ RMO/ Intern \_\_\_\_\_

Other (please give details) \_\_\_\_\_ Level: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to AMA PO Box 133 Nedlands WA 6909, or fax to (08) 9273 3073 or email [membership@amawa.com.au](mailto:membership@amawa.com.au) or join online: [www.amawa.com.au](http://www.amawa.com.au). We will send a tax invoice and further membership information upon receipt of your completed application form.

