

ROWING AUSTRALIA NATIONAL SQUAD SPORTS SCIENCE / MEDICINE RECONCILIATION POLICY



OVERVIEW:

As part of the National Training Squad process, nominated athletes who train in other centres than the AIS are able to claim for some of the costs incurred for recognised sports science or medicine costs on a cost recovery basis.

A system to cover this has been in place since February 2007. A review of how this system has been operating was conducted in August 2007, with the following recommendations being made.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Where the local SIS/SAS provides a sports science / sports medicine service, that service should be used. Many SIS/SAS absorb these internal costs. If an athlete chooses to use external provider where an internal provider is supplied, costs will not be met by RA. When an external provider is used, they should be part of the RA or local SIS/SAS SSSM Network.

Private Health Insurance is strongly recommended. A comprehensive policy that covers many of the usual costs incurred by elite athletes is also strongly recommended. Basic policies often cover very little of items such as physiotherapy and massage.

Where a service is usually covered by Private Health Insurance, RA will only cover the gap between the provider charge and the Private Health Insurance rebate. Where an athlete does not have Private Health Insurance, or the yearly limit has been reached, RA will only refund an estimated gap based on an average of Private Health Insurance rebates. (Refer to Appendix 1)

Most SIS/SAS scholarships allow for some level of coverage of external SSSM costs. Where this occurs, athletes should claim from their allowances prior to applying to RA for reimbursement.

The attached reconciliation form needs to be completed and submitted with all the relevant receipts, plus proof of rebates claimed, for reimbursement to occur.

CLAIMABLE SERVICES:

- *Speak to RA SSSM Coordinator for clarification or more specific advice.*

Medical

- Visit to recognised Sports Medicine network provider.
- Completion of RA Medical Reporting Form notifying the RA PMO and SSSM Coordinator is essential.

- RA will cover the gap between the provider's charge and the Medicare rebate.
- All Medicare rebates must be claimed prior to applying to RA for reimbursement.

Investigations & Pathology

- Costs will be covered when an athlete has been referred for further investigation by a recognised Sports Medicine network provider.
- Completion of RA Medical Reporting Form notifying the RA PMO and SSSM Coordinator is essential.
- All Medicare rebates must be claimed prior to applying to RA for reimbursement.

Specialists

- Specialist referral requires the approval of the RA PMO for costs to be claimed.
- RA will cover the gap between the provider's charge and the Medicare rebate.
- All Medicare rebates must be claimed prior to applying to RA for reimbursement.

Surgery / Hospitalisation

- Where the surgery or hospitalisation is related to an injury or illness sustained during activities required as an elite athlete in an approved NTC squad, some costs may be covered.
- These costs can be discussed with the RA PMO and RA SSSM Coordinator on a case by case basis.
- All Medicare and Private Health Insurance rebates must be claimed prior to applying to RA for reimbursement.

Medications

- The costs of medications will not be covered by RA.

Physiotherapy

- Visit to a recognised network physiotherapist.
- Where training is affected, completion of RA Medical Reporting Form notifying the RA PMO and SSSM Coordinator is essential.
- More than one session per week requires the approval of the RA SSSM Coordinator or the RA PMO.
- All Private Health Insurance rebates must be claimed prior to applying to RA for reimbursement.

Massage

- One visit per week to a recognised and qualified provider.
- All Private Health Insurance rebates must be claimed prior to applying to RA for reimbursement.

Other Soft Tissue Therapies

- An example is chiropractic or osteopathic.
- Require the approval of the PMO to be claimable.

- Where approved, all Private Health Insurance rebates must be claimed prior to applying to RA for reimbursement.

Psychology

- Sessions as required.
- Regular repeat visits require PMO approval to be claimable.
- Confidentiality process exercised by PMO.
- All Private Health Insurance rebates must be claimed prior to applying to RA for reimbursement.

Nutrition

- Visit to a network dietician once per month.
- A weekly claim of up to \$40 is available for purchase of power bars, gels, powerade, sustagen, cereal bars.
- Please refer to the Rowing Australia Supplement Policy for guidance on what other products are recommended and / or allowed. Only products in categories A & B may be covered.
- Receipts are required.
- Products purchased through sports stores and supermarkets are usually very expensive. Where possible, it is in your interest to try to use products that are sourced in bulk or via your local SIS/SAS. You will get more product covered by the weekly limit.

Sports Testing

- Most biomechanical and physiological testing is covered by RA under a separate funding arrangement with each SIS/SAS.
- Any other testing costs can be discussed with the SSSM Coordinator and or HPD on a case by case basis.

NOTE:

Claims for reimbursement must be received by RA within a maximum of three months of the costs being incurred for the claim to be covered

Appendix 1.

Rowing Australia Rebate Schedule
(updated July 2007)

Physiotherapy		Chiropractic		Psychology		Acupuncture		Massage	
Initial	Subsequent	Initial	Subsequent	Initial	Subsequent	Initial	Subsequent	Initial	Subsequent
\$ 36.00	\$ 29.00	\$ 33.00	\$ 26.00	\$ 67.00	\$ 54.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 21.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 20.00