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## Draft updated definition of general practice for the purpose of accreditation

### AMA submission to Royal Australian College of General Practitioners

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The AMA welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft updated definition of general practice for the purpose of accreditation.

#### Comments on RACGP's draft definition of general practice

The AMA supports the RACGP's aim of ensuring that the definition is worded so as to ensure that all general practices providing comprehensive, patient-centred, whole-person and continuous care are eligible for accreditation against the RACGP's Standards for general practices (5<sup>th</sup> edition).

However, the AMA suggests the following amendment to the draft definition:

For a practice or health service to seek accreditation:

- It must provide comprehensive, patient-centred, whole-person and continuous care; and
- Its services must be predominantly\* of general practice nature.

~~\*more than 50% of the practice's general practitioners' clinical time (ie collectively), and more than 50% of services for which Medicare benefits are claimed or could be claimed (from that practice) are in general practice.~~ **income generated directly from services of general practitioners working in the practice.'**

This suggested amendment addresses several problems with the current draft definition:

- Defining 'predominantly' with reference to MBS services is problematic because:

- The MBS does not clearly define what benefits can be claimed in general practice – theoretically, there are many beyond Category A Group 1 items; and
- General practices provide non-Medicare services to groups like overseas students and may also bill privately.
- It is also preferable to remove the possessive language of ‘the practice’s general practitioners’ in the original RACGP draft definition, given that practices do not necessarily employ the GPs who contract their services to them.

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