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| **Registration of a health service establishment – Factsheet**  Health Service Establishment  OFFICIAL |

The Department of Health (the department) is responsible for the regulation of health service establishments under the *Health Services Act 1988* (the Act) and the *Health Services (Health Service Establishments) Regulations 2013* (the Regulations). A person or a body corporate (e.g., a company or an incorporated association) operating a private hospital, day procedure centre or mobile health service in Victoria is required to register those premises with the department.

## What kinds of premises are required to be registered?

The provision of prescribed health services must take place in a registered premises. The following section provides the definitions for prescribed services (medical, surgical and speciality) that must be undertaken in a registered premises. Proprietor’s wishing to provide these services must register their premises with the department.

### 1. Medical health services

**Medical health service** means a health service (other than emergency stabilisation treatment) that—

* + - 1. is provided to a patient by a registered medical practitioner; and
      2. involves a diagnosis and treatment that requires—

nursing supervision and care; or

the use of anaesthesia.

### 2. Surgical health services

**Surgical health service** means a health service (other than emergency stabilisation treatment) that—

* + - 1. is ordinarily provided by a registered medical practitioner, registered dental practitioner, registered medical radiation practitioner or a registered podiatrist; and
      2. involves the use of surgical instruments and an operating theatre, procedure room, or treatment room; and
      3. uses or requires one or more of the following—
         1. anaesthesia; or
         2. the attendance of at least one other registered health practitioner; or
         3. post-operative observation of the patient by nursing staff.

### 3. Speciality health services

**Specialty health service** means a health service (other than emergency stabilisation treatment) that—

* + - 1. is ordinarily undertaken by, or under the supervision of, a registered medical practitioner, a registered dental practitioner, a registered medical radiation practitioner or a registered podiatrist; and
      2. requires one or both of the following—
         1. specialist equipment.
         2. an area that is specifically fitted out for the kind of service provided.

#### Specialty health services for day procedure centres include:

* anaesthesia
* bariatric procedures
* cataract surgery
* endoscopy
* liposuction (removing in total at least 200 ml of lipoaspirate)
* mental health services
* oncology (chemotherapy)
* oncology (radiation therapy)
* oocyte retrieval
* paediatric services (provided to patients aged at least 28 days and under 18 years when admitted)
* renal dialysis
  + specialist rehabilitation services

#### Specialty health services for private hospitals include:

* alcohol or drug withdrawal (detoxification—acute phase)
* anaesthesia
* bariatric procedures
* cardiac catheterisation
* cardiac surgery
* cataract surgery
* emergency medicine
* endoscopy
* intensive care
* liposuction (removing in total at least 200 ml of lipoaspirate)
* mental health services
* neonatal services (provided to patients aged 28 days and under when admitted)
* neurosurgery
* obstetrics   
  oncology (chemotherapy)
* oncology (radiation therapy)
* oocyte retrieval
* paediatric services (provided to patients aged at least 28 days and under 18 years when admitted)
* renal dialysis
  + specialist rehabilitation services

## Health service establishments

**Health service establishment** means—

1. a day procedure centre; or

b) a premises at which, or from which, a prescribed health service is provided; or.

c) a private hospital.

### Private hospitals and day procedure centres

**Private hospital** means premises where persons are provided with health services of a prescribed kind or kinds and for which a charge is made and includes a privately-operated hospital but does not include—

1. a public hospital or denominational hospital; or
2. a day procedure centre; or
3. a residential care service.

**Day procedure centre** means premises where—

1. an activity carried on is the provision of health services of a prescribed kind or kinds and for which a charge is made; and
2. persons to whom treatment of that kind or those kinds is provided are reasonably expected to be admitted and discharged on the same date—

but does not include a public hospital, denominational hospital, or private hospital.

### Mobile health services

**A mobile health service** is a health service establishment as defined by part (b) of the definition of Health Service Establishments—a premises at which, or from which, a prescribed health service is provided.

### Quality accreditation and the national accreditation system

Please note that the requirement to register a health service establishment is a **legal requirement under Victorian law**. It is separate from accreditation by a quality accreditation agency or any obligations that require compliance with the national standards. Proprietors of health service establishments are strongly advised to consider whether their premises are required to be registered under Victorian law.

**Note: Accreditation cannot be viewed as a substitute for registration.**  
  
Further information, please email the Private Hospitals & Day Procedure Centres Unit at [privatehospitals@health.vic.gov.au](mailto:privatehospitals@health.vic.gov.au)

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