



Australian Government

Department of Health and Ageing

ACFI 12 - Role of health care professionals in complex pain management

This advice is to further clarify arrangements for claiming pain management services under ACFI 12 – Complex Health Care.

Details of Question 12 – Complex Health Care are contained in the ACFI User Guide.

The ACFI User Guide is available on the Department of Health and Ageing's internet site at: <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/New+Funding+Model+for+Residential+Aged+Care-1>

Who can give directives and undertake pain management services?

Question 12 includes three items that differentiate between different levels of pain management services based on frequency and complexity, taking into account which health professionals, including registered nurses, medical practitioners and allied health professionals, provide these services and give the directive for the services to be provided.

The list of allied health professionals (AHPs) who may give directives or undertake the procedures listed in ACFI 12 is detailed on page 36 of the ACFI User Guide. An allied health professional giving a directive or carrying out a procedure under 4a or 4b and included in the list of allied health professionals must be acting within their scope of practice.

What are the requirements under Item 3?

Under item 3 of Question 12, provided that a registered nurse, a medical practitioner or allied health professional gives the directive on pain management involving therapeutic massage or the application of heat packs, that directive may be carried out by whoever the person giving the directive deems to be appropriate in the circumstances.

What are the requirements under Items 4a and 4b?

Both items 4a and 4b relate to therapeutic massage and/or pain management involving technical equipment specifically designed for pain management. "Technical equipment designed specifically for pain management" includes electro-therapeutic equipment such as Transcutaneous Electric Nerve Stimulation (TENS), interferential therapy, ultrasonic therapy, laser therapy, and wax baths. The Department of Health and Ageing does not maintain an exhaustive list of equipment that can be included as this is subject to change over time.

Item 4a of Question 12

Under item 4a, the **directive** must be given by:

- a registered nurse or
- a medical practitioner or
- an allied health professional included on the list of allied health professionals.

Under item 4a, complex pain **management and practice** must be provided by:

- a registered nurse or
- an allied health professional included on the list of allied health professionals.

Item 4b of Question 12

Under item 4b, the **directive** may be given by:

- a medical practitioner or
- an allied health professional included on the list of allied health professionals.

Under item 4b, complex pain **management and practice** may be provided by:

- an allied health professional included on the list of allied health professionals.

The requirements applicable in each of these 3 items are summarised in the table below:

Item under ACFI 12 (CHC)	Who can provide the <u>directive</u>?	Who can <u>undertake</u> the treatment?
Item 3	Registered Nurse, Medical Practitioner, or AHP	Appropriate staff, as directed
Item 4a	Registered Nurse, Medical Practitioner, or AHP	Registered Nurse, or AHP
Item 4b	Medical Practitioner, or AHP	AHP only

Note: The frequency with which the procedure that is the subject of a directive is undertaken also differs between items 4a and 4b (see ACFI User Guide).

Please note that Fact Sheet 5 is being updated to reflect this advice.