



MEMORANDUM

To: General Practitioners and Practice Owners – West Coast, New Zealand

From: Stephanie Blackman West Coast Health Clinical Quality manager

Date: 1 Sept 2025

Subject: Claiming for Bicillin Injections and GP Visits for Rheumatic Fever Patients

Purpose

This memo outlines how to claim for the administration of **benzathine benzylpenicillin (Bicillin L-A)** injections and for **quarterly GP visits** for patients receiving prophylaxis for **rheumatic fever** on the West Coast.

Background

Rheumatic fever is a preventable disease with long-term health impacts, particularly in high-risk communities. Patients require ongoing intramuscular Bicillin injections and regular clinical monitoring to reduce recurrence and complications.

To support this, specific funding is available to general practices for both **injection administration** and **GP consultations**.

Claiming for Bicillin Injections

1. Eligibility

- Patient must have a confirmed diagnosis of rheumatic fever and be enrolled in the **national rheumatic fever register**. The LinKIDS service support this register.
- Patients new to a practice with an existing RF diagnosis should be notified to the Medical Officer of Health and registered with NPHS.
- Injections must be part of the regular prophylaxis schedule (every 21 or 28 days). But not more than 28 days apart, otherwise relapse can occur.
- Please follow Healthpathways guidance (link below).

2. Funding Provided

- A **per-injection payment** is available to cover:
 - Nurse or GP time





3. Claim Process

- Practices are to invoice Health NZ at the usual practice appointment fee for Bicillin delivery
- Record:
 - Date and time of injection
 - Patient NHI
 - Indication: Rheumatic fever prophylaxis

Claiming for Quarterly GP Visits

1. Purpose

- Patients on long-term prophylaxis should have a **clinical review at least every 3 months** to assess health status, medication tolerance, and adherence.

2. Funding Available

- Up to **four GP visits per year** are **fully funded** for rheumatic fever follow-up.
- This funding is separate from the Bicillin administration.

3. Claim Process

- Practices are to invoice Health NZ at the usual practice appointment fee for GP appointments

Support and Contacts

Additional information is available :

<https://www.tewhatauora.govt.nz>

[Health Pathways: Rheumatic fever](#)

Thank you for your continued efforts to improve outcomes for patients with rheumatic fever in the West Coast region.

