



Dr James Freeman  
GP2U Telehealth  
173 Macquarie Street  
Hobart TAS 7000

Dear Dr Freeman

Please find below confirmation of my email to you on 20 June 2012.

In relation to the digitally signed DB4 it appears, based on the information you have provided, that your model would meet the requirements of the *Health Insurance Act 1973* (the HIA) for the assignment of Medicare benefits as summarised below:

- the assignment must be in accordance with the approved form (subsection 20A(1) of the HIA) (or in a form that substantially complies with the approved form);
- before the patient signs the form, the particulars relating to the professional service must be set out on the form (paragraph 127(1)(a) of the HIA);
- the eligible person must assign his or her right to payment of the Medicare benefit to the practitioner (paragraph 20A(1)(a) of the HIA);
- the practitioner must accept the assignment as full payment of the medical expenses incurred (paragraph 20(1)(b) of the HIA);
- a copy of the agreement must be given to the patient as soon as practicable after the patient signs the agreement (paragraph 127(1)(b) of the HIA);
- the Chief Executive Medicare must be satisfied that after signing the agreement the assignor retained in his or her possession a copy of the agreement (subsection 20B(3) of the HIA).

GP2U Telehealth would need to obtain its own independent legal advice in order to determine whether the process meets the requirements of the HIA and the *Electronic Transactions Act 1999* and you have advised that you have already obtained this advice.

It should be noted that the specialist, consultant physician or consultant psychiatrist can be located anywhere throughout Australia and it is that practitioner's responsibility to identify that the patient is within an eligible location prior to the video consultation being undertaken for the purposes of Telehealth. Where a supporting practitioner is with the patient throughout the video consultation they also are responsible for meeting the eligibility criteria of the Medicare Benefits Schedule item descriptors.

Please note, if changes are made to the way your current approved software transmits claims via Medicare Online, or to the generation and presentation of DB4 forms as approved during the Notice of Integration process, you will need to contact the Online Technical Support's Product Integration team at [itest@humanservices.gov.au](mailto:itest@humanservices.gov.au) to determine whether additional testing or an amendment to your current Notice of Integration is required.

I trust this information assists you.

Karen Hebditch  
Director  
Medicare Claims Section  
Medicare & VAP Branch  
2 July 2012