

Doctor's Bag

As an essential requirement of the Standards, each Doctor shall be able to access a Doctor's Bag containing all the necessary equipment/materials required by the Standards at the time of use. All equipment need not be stored within the Doctor's Bag, and items can be placed in the Doctor's Bag when the Doctor attends an off-site consultation or emergency.

RACGP Standards

5.2.2 *Our Practice ensures that each GP has access to a doctor's bag.*

Assessment methods

- Direct observation of Doctor's Bag(s)

Surveyors will ask to see a Doctor's Bag(s) and will check that the bag(s) contain all the essential equipment required by the Standards. Any perishable materials and medicines will be checked to ensure they have not expired.

Meeting the standards

Some Practices may only have one bag that is shared by a number of Doctors, however in larger Practices more than one bag may need to be available so that all Doctors are able to access a Doctor's Bag if required.

When in use the Doctor's Bag(s) shall contain:

auriscope	disposable gloves
equipment for maintaining an airway	in-date medicines for medical emergencies
ophthalmoscope	practice stationery
sharps container	sphygmomanometer
stethoscope	syringes and needles in a range of sizes
thermometer	torch

All equipment need not be stored within the Doctor's Bag, as some necessary items can be placed in the Doctor's Bag when the Doctor attends an off-site consultation or emergency.

It is important that any medications or perishable materials contained within the bag are monitored regularly and not kept beyond their use-by dates.

The Doctor's Bag shall be securely stored when not in use, particularly when Schedule 8 medications are held in the bag. Schedule 8 drugs are kept and logged according to the appropriate State laws.

BEST PRACTICE:

- All equipment will be always kept in the Doctor's Bag.
- All medicines and perishable materials contained in the bag will be in-date.
- Storage of Schedule 8 medications is in accordance with relevant State laws.
- All Doctors will have access to a Doctor's Bag when required.
- All bags are kept secure when not in use.