

Doctor's Bag

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

RACGP 4th Edition 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 and will check that the bag contains 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 shall contain:

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

Not all equipment needs to 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 medicines 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.