

# Protection for your practice & employed staff



Tailor a package  
for your practice



Call us for advice

# This brochure is designed to help you determine whether your practice may need its own professional indemnity insurance.

## Information for owners of medical practices and healthcare companies

Medical services are often delivered via complex ownership and business structures which can lead to potential gaps in insurance protection. Often practices are not wholly owned by the doctors working in the practice, the practice may employ a range of allied health care professionals and the doctors may be insured with different insurers.

Gaps in cover that arise because of the way services are provided cannot be easily covered by each doctor's individual medical indemnity insurance. In some cases, doctors may not want matters they are not directly involved in dealt with under their personal policies.

MIGA offers a policy, called Healthcare Insurance, to cover medical practices and companies for claims that may be made against them.

MIGA's Healthcare Insurance is for companies involved in providing health care treatment, advice and services. It covers the liability of the company or practice entity, its subsidiaries and their employees including health care professionals such as nurses, technicians and the like (other than employed doctors\*). Cover is also provided for vicarious liability for the acts of employees, including employed doctors and contractors, consultants and agents.

\*An optional extension is available to cover employed doctors directly under the Healthcare Insurance or alternatively doctors can maintain their own insurance and Healthcare Insurance will cover the company or practice over and above the individual doctors' policies.



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# We're here to help you

We recognise it's not always easy to determine if your company needs its own insurance. We are available to help if you'd like to discuss your unique situation.

Contact your local Business Development Advisor or a member of our Healthcare Team.

Put their experience to work for you.

**Call us on 1800 777 156.**

## Consider your situation

If you own a medical practice or healthcare company (either wholly or partly) then whether you need Healthcare Insurance or not will generally depend on its business structure and what type of insurance is currently in place.

### Can your practice company benefit from Healthcare Insurance?

If you run a single doctor practice and you are a sole practitioner

**NO**

If all the doctors who work in your practice are insured with MIGA

**POSSIBLY**

If only some of the doctors who work in your practice are insured with MIGA

**YES**

If none of the doctors who work in your practice are insured with MIGA

**YES**

If you are uncertain as to whether your practice needs Healthcare Insurance, please contact us as we can review your situation and provide you advice on your Insurance needs.

If you own a medical practice or healthcare company (wholly or partly) and you have a number of doctors working in the organisation, then read more over leaf about how this insurance may be of benefit.



## Scenario 1

If all the doctors who work in your practice are insured with MIGA

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Whilst we believe MIGA's single doctor policy is one of the broadest in the market, there are some situations where an individual doctor's policy will not provide the total solution in a matter that involves the practice entity or its employees.

### **The situations where your practice might need its own insurance include:**

- If your practice is not wholly owned or controlled by the doctors who are insured with MIGA
- If your practice employs professional staff who work in areas outside of the doctors' area of practice
- If your practice provides services to external parties, which may include services provided to doctors or other health professionals who are not employed by the practice
- If you have employees working in the practice who bill in their own right or you have contractors working in your practice.

## Scenario 2

If only some of the doctors who work in your practice are insured with MIGA

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**Practices that employ or contract with doctors where the doctors maintain their own individual insurance with different insurers may face issues in terms of:**

- Lack of clarity about cover for the practice entity and its employees
- Different policy conditions applying to each of the doctors in the practice
- Resolving issues between insurance companies when they try to work out who was responsible for an incident - there may be gaps in cover that emerge as a result of this.

**MIGA's Healthcare Insurance:**

- Ensures doctors can maintain their own policy with their insurer of choice, if they wish, but
- Will minimise the risk of gaps in cover for the practice entity and its employees.

**Some of the situations where your practice may need Healthcare Insurance are:**

- If the staff in the practice are employed by an administration company but provide support to all of the doctors in the practice
- If the practice is joined in a claim in relation to allegations attributable to the practice or its employees.

## Scenario 3

If none of the doctors who work in your practice are insured with MIGA

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Your practice is likely to need its own Healthcare Insurance.

**If all the doctors in your practice are insured:**

- **With the one insurer** – then your practice might still need Healthcare Insurance for the reasons outlined in Scenario 1
- **With different insurers** – then your practice might still need Healthcare Insurance for the reasons outlined in Scenario 2.

In addition, there are other reasons why your practice might need its own insurance.

MIGA's insurance policy for individual doctors is one of the broadest available in Australia which means if all of the doctors in your practice are insured with us there may be fewer reasons for needing Healthcare Insurance.

**If all your doctors are insured with other insurers, however, then your practice might still need Healthcare Insurance because not all medical indemnity insurance policies for doctors cover:**

- The practice entity where it may be responsible for a claim or for its vicarious liability for the acts of employees including doctors in the practice
- Employees for claims brought against them personally.

Should any of these scenarios apply to you or your practice, call MIGA and we can help you.

# Questions and answers

## QUESTION

# 1

If your practice has Healthcare Insurance, should your employed doctors maintain their own cover?

## YES

We recommend all doctors maintain their individual medical indemnity insurance

The benefits are:

- It entitles them to access Federal Government benefits such as Premium Support Scheme (PSS), Run-Off Cover Scheme (ROCS) and Exceptional Claims Scheme (ECS) – access to these would be lost if the doctors are insured under a practice or corporate policy only.
- Many doctors tell us that having their own policy is important to them as it maintains their access to personal support from their insurer, they do not lose their continuity benefits and they are protected by their own limit of cover (which won't be shared with their employer) or other doctors and professional staff.

The good news is that Healthcare Insurance can protect the practice over and above the arrangements in place for individual doctors.

## QUESTION

# 2

Can Healthcare Insurance also include cover for the doctors?

## YES

In certain situations it can provide an optional extension to include cover for employed doctors.

Doctors will always benefit from their own personal insurance, as outlined left.

There may be situations where a practice may decide to insure employed doctors under a Healthcare Insurance policy. An example of this may be where the practice employs locums under short term employment arrangements and the locums do not maintain their own personal insurance.

One of the key benefits of Healthcare Insurance is that even if doctors working in the practice maintain their own medical indemnity insurance the Healthcare Insurance policy will cover the practice for its vicarious liability for the acts of these doctors provided the practice ensures doctors have their own insurance.

## QUESTION

# 3

Does MIGA offer group insurance arrangements for medical practices?

## YES

You can arrange all your medical indemnity insurance needs with MIGA.

We offer group arrangements for doctors who work in the one practice and Healthcare Insurance for the practice as well!

If your practice employs doctors and they wish to maintain their own individual medical indemnity insurance cover, MIGA can offer a tailored group insurance arrangement for them that dovetails with the practice's insurance. This has the benefit of each doctor maintaining their own insurance cover but having access to more competitive premiums and broader cover via a group arrangement.

## QUESTION

# 4

If I am insured elsewhere – does my practice need its own insurance?

## POSSIBLY

This depends on the nature of the insurance you have in place

It will also depend on how broad the cover actually is and how well it dovetails with the doctors' individual insurance arrangements.

If you are uncertain about your current insurance please contact us as we can review your situation and provide you advice on whether Healthcare Insurance provides broader cover and is more suitable to your needs.



## Learn more

For more information about professional indemnity insurance for Healthcare Companies, please visit our website [www.miga.com.au](http://www.miga.com.au) where you can access:

- Case studies
- Information about our cover
- Information about MIGA.

Always the  
first choice for  
your insurance  
and protection



**General Enquiries  
and Client Service**

Free Call 1800 777 156  
Facsimile 1800 839 284

**Claims and Legal Services**

(During Office hrs and 24hr  
emergency legal support)

Free Call 1800 839 280  
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Insurance policies available through MIGA  
are underwritten by Medical Insurance  
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