**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.