Assisted billing

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Bill for a doctor that assisted another doctor in a procedure. The assisting doctor can create their own invoice or be included on the main doctors/surgeon's invoice and get reimbursed at a later date.

Surgical assistance eligibility

- **Eligible items:** Operations eligible for Medicare surgical assistance benefits include the word **"Assist."** in their item description.
- **Ineligible items:** Medicare does not pay surgical assistance benefits for items without **"Assist."**, except for items **51306, 51309, 51312, 51315, and 51318.**
- **Who can claim:** The assistant must be a medical practitioner—not the surgeon, anaesthetist or assistant anaesthetist.

How the fee is calculated

- The assistant's fee is based on the surgeon's MBS items, not the length of the surgery.
- Two MBS items apply: **51300** and **51303.**
- Which item you use depends on the combined total of the **(Assist.)** items after applying the Multiple Operation Rule.

Abated total	Item	Schedule fee (at 1 July 2026)
$668.25 or less	51300	$103.25, fixed
Over $668.25	51303	One fifth (1/5) of the abated total

Example: A surgeon bills three (Assist.) items with values: $1500, $900 and $600:

- ($1,500 x 100%) + ($900 x 50%) + ($600 x 25%) = $2,100 abated total
- Over $668.25 means Item 51303 > $2,100 / 5 = $420 schedule fee

Billing options in Zedmed

You can bill for surgical assistance in three ways:

1. **As the Assist doctor:** You bill only for the assisting doctor's fee, with the treating doctor set as the assistant.
2. **On behalf of the Assist doctor:** One account covers both the surgical fees and the assistant's fee. The main surgeon may collect the assistant's fee and pass it on later.
3. **For both the Assist doctor and the surgeon:** You bill for both roles, which creates two separate invoices.

Assisting doctor creates their own invoice

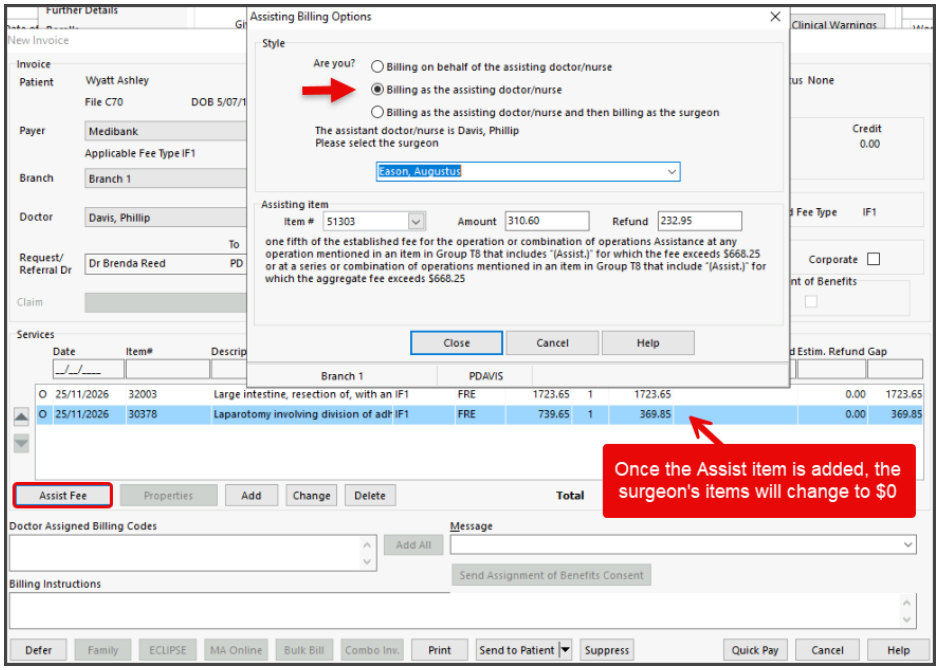
The invoice is created by the assisting doctor, who is selected as the treating doctor. It is recommended to submit invoices after the surgeon has billed their items to avoid rejection.

To create the invoice:

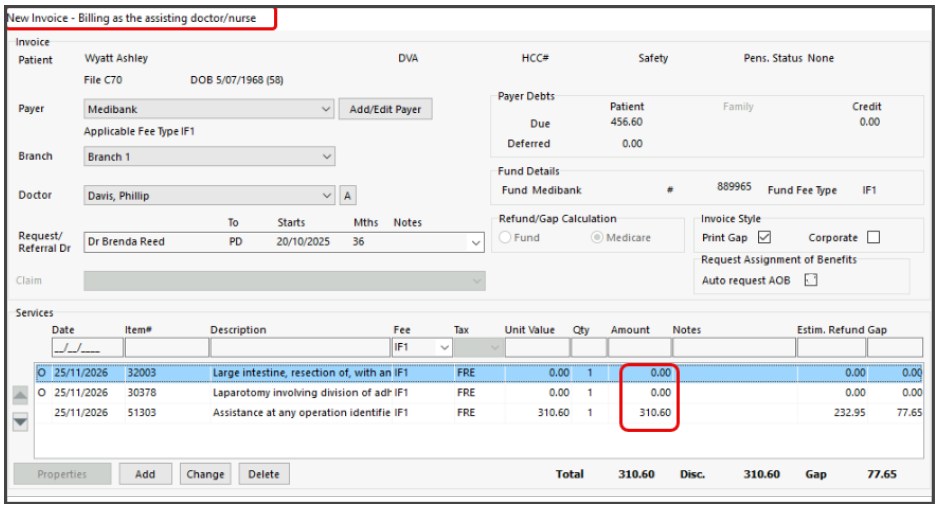
1. Create an invoice and include the payer, referral and any claim details.

   To learn more, see the Billing guide.
2. For **Doctor**, select the assisting doctor/surgeon.
3. Enter the surgical items for the procedure. The MOF will be applied if relevant. Only one service/attendance date should be included.
4. On the last item select **Assist Fee**.
5. Select **Bill As The Assisting Doctor**.
6. Select the **Surgeon** who performed the operation.
7. Review the **Assisting item**.

   The Assisting Item displayed will be based on the total schedule fee for the surgical items entered.



8. Select **Close.**
9. A **New Invoice - As assisting doctor/nurse** screen will open and show the total bill for the assistance based on the procedure.
10. Complete the bill/claim.



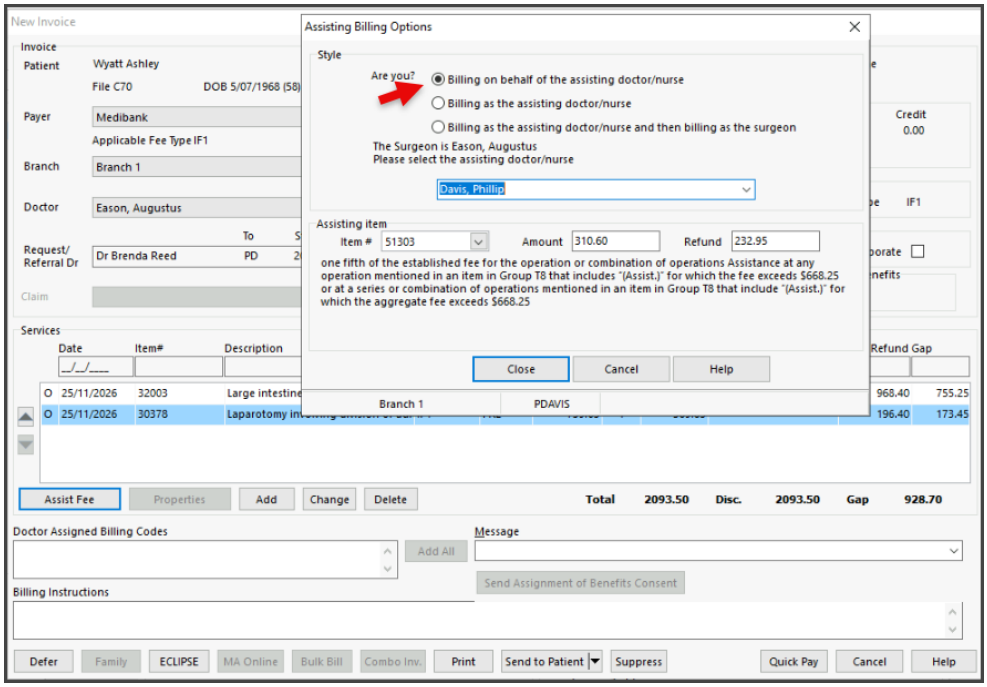
Assisting doctor added to main doctor's invoice

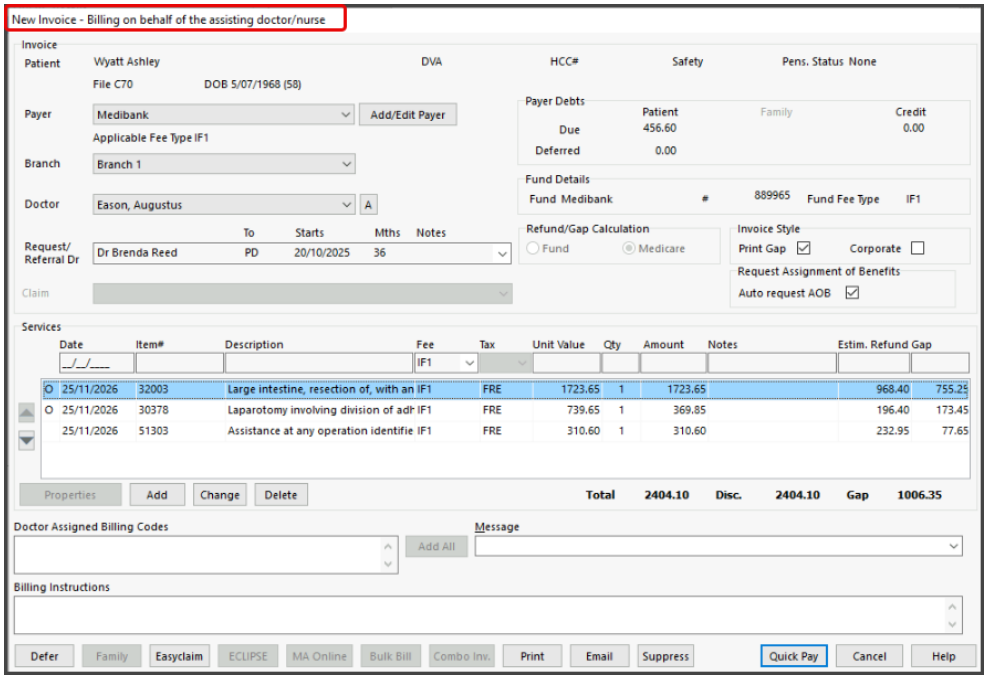
The main (treating) doctor creates an invoice with their fee and adds the assistant doctor who will have an assistance fee. The treating doctor will receive the payment and reimburse the assisting doctor.

To create the invoice:

1. Create an invoice and include the payer, referral and any claim details.

   To learn more, see the Billing guide.
2. For **Doctor**, select the doctor/surgeon.
3. Enter the surgical items for the procedure. The MOF will be applied if relevant. Only one service/attendance date should be included
4. On the last item select **Assist Fee**.
5. Select **Bill on behalf of the Assisting Doctor.**
6. Select the **Assisting Doctor**.
7. Review the **Assisting item.**
8. Select **Close.**
9. The Billing screen will show the whole invoice with all surgical items and including the fee for the Assisting doctor.
10. Complete the bill/claim.





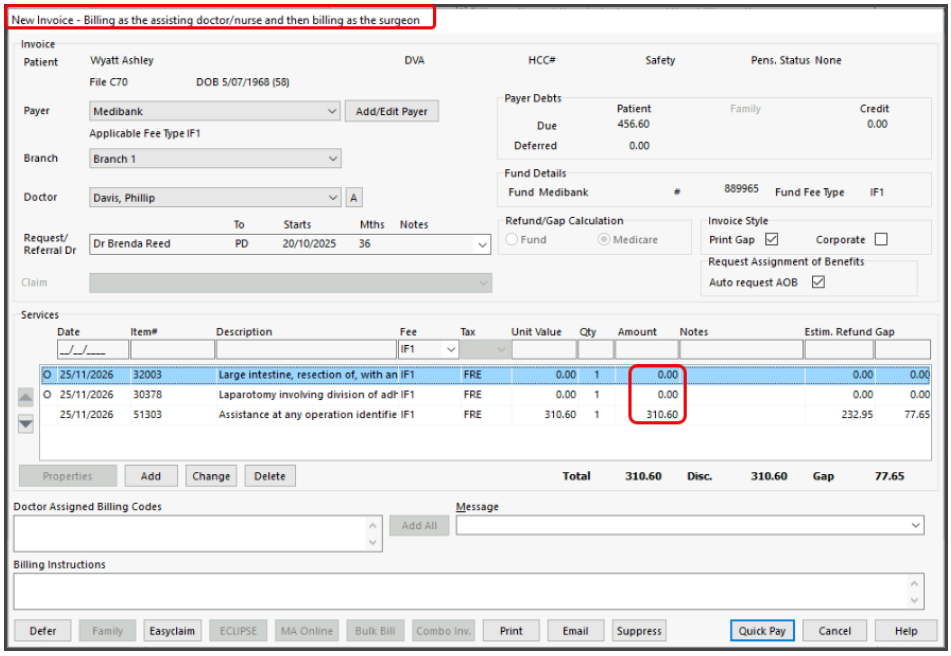
Billing as the assisting doctor then billing as the surgeon

Two invoices will be generated, one for the assisting doctor and then the surgeon.

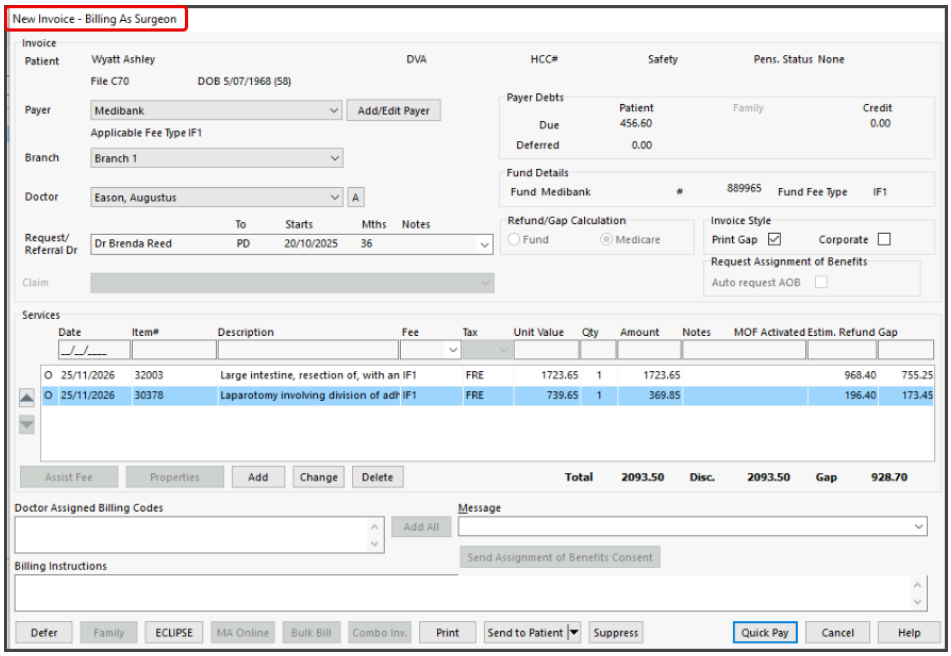
To create the invoice:

1. Create an invoice and include the payer, referral and any claim details.

   To learn more, see the Billing guide.
2. For **Doctor**, select the doctor/surgeon.
3. Enter the surgical items for the procedure. The MOF will be applied if relevant. Only one service/attendance date should be included
4. On the last item select **Assist Fee**.
5. Select **Billing as the assisting doctor/nurse and then billing as the surgeon.**
6. Select the **Assisting Doctor**.
7. Review the **Assisting item.**
8. Select **Close.**
9. The first billing screen displayed is for the assisting doctor.
10. Select Print or Suppress



11. A second billing screen will display for the surgeon



Setting up Assisted Billing

Doctor setup

An assisting doctor can be a treating doctor and create their own invoice - or - they can be added to the treating doctor's invoice if they have the **Assist Only** box ticked in their profile. Do not add this to a doctor who will be the treating doctor/surgeon for a patient or invoice.

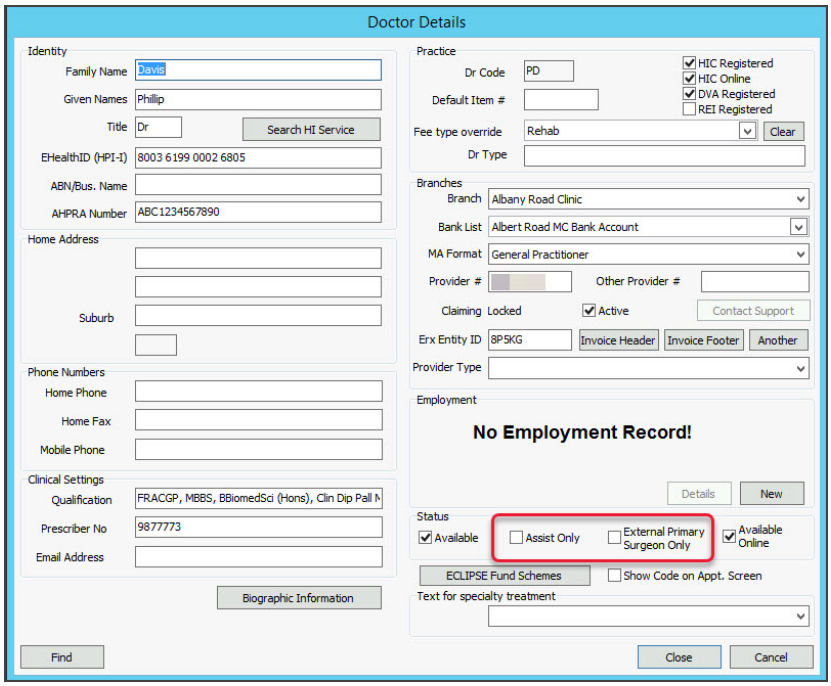
To enable a doctor for Assisted Billing:

1. In Office, select **Practice Setup** > **Doctors** > **Find Treating Doctors**.
2. Search the doctor.

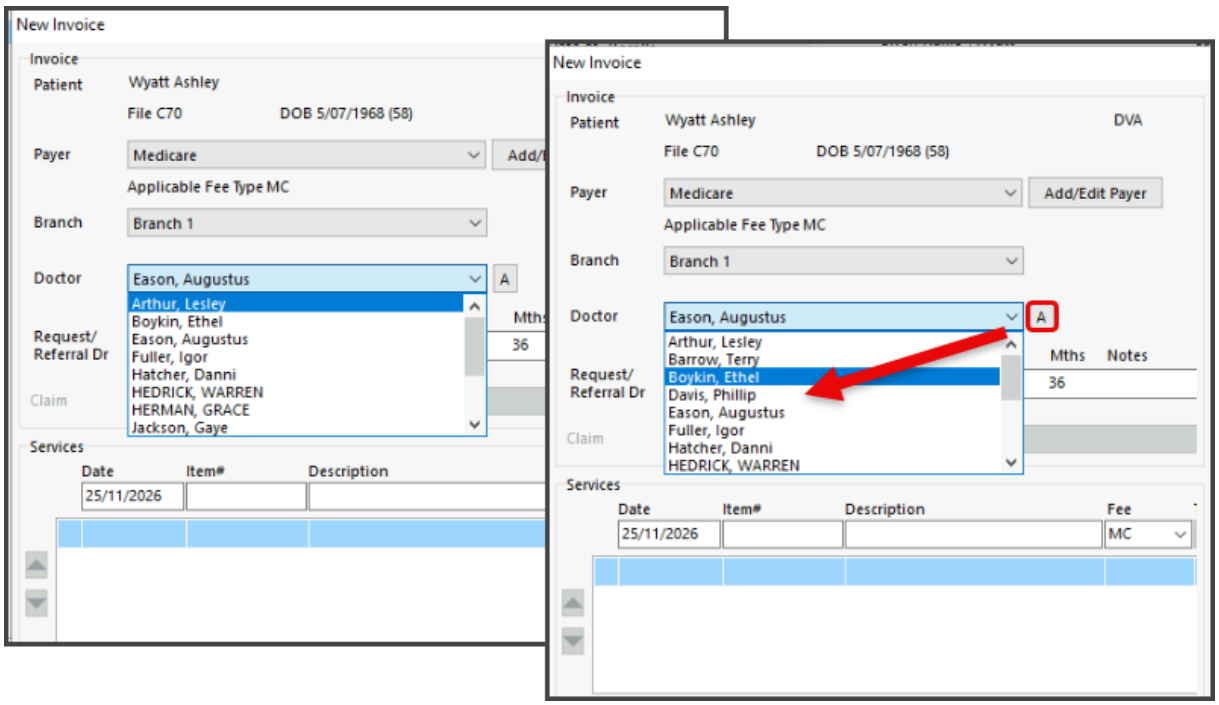
3. Select the **Assist Only** box.

   An Assist Only doctor can not be a patient's treating doctor or create their own invoice as a treating doctor.

   If the Doctor is to be a **Primary External Surgeon Only** then tick the box for this option.



When the **Assist Only** check box **is selected**, the corresponding doctor **will not** be selectable in theTreating Doctor drop-down list on the New Invoice screen until the **'A'** is selected at the end of the field.



Practice setup

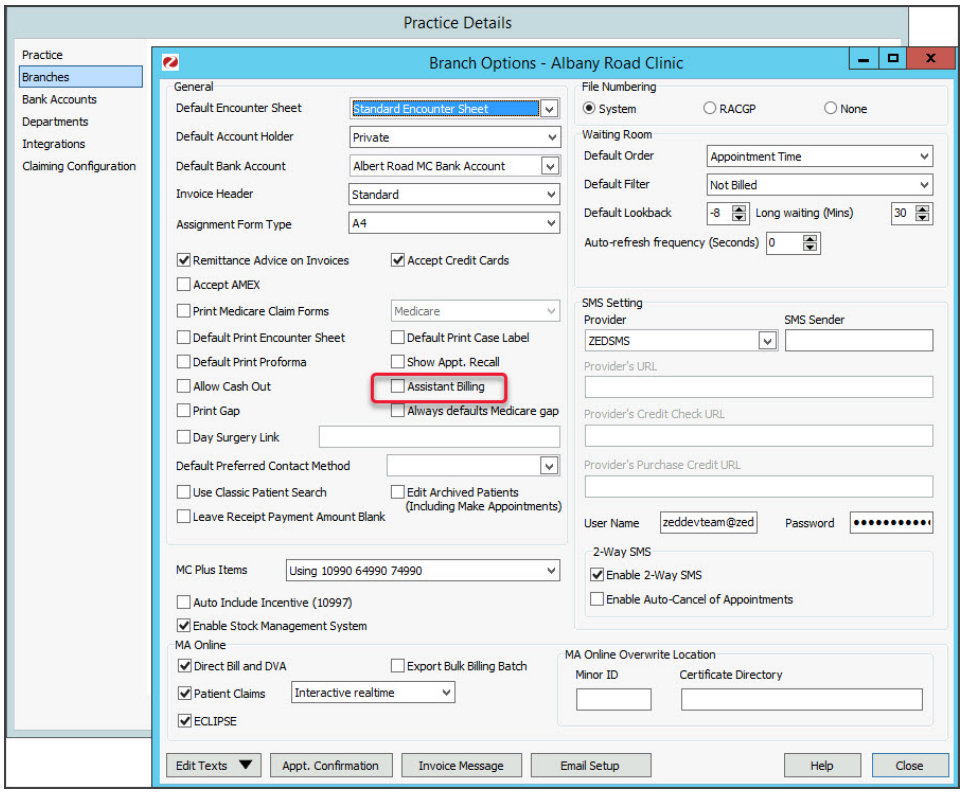
Each branch in practice needs to be enabled for Assisted Billing.

To enable Assisted Billing:

1. In Office, select **Practice Setup** > **Branches**.
2. Select **Options**.
3. Select the **Assistant Billing** box.
4. Select **Close** to save and exit.
5. Restart Zedmed and log in again

These items will be added to the Invoice screen:

- An **A** (Assisted) icon next to the Treating Doctor drop-down list.
- An **Assist Fee** button next to the **Properties** button.



Item fees setup

For the derivative Assist items (51303 and 51309) the percentage of the Medicare schedule fee paid should be entered into the relevant fee type field on the new Assistant Derivative Fees tab. E.g. if Medibank Private paid 144.50% of the Medicare Schedule Assist Fee, then 144.50 should be entered into the fee type field set up for Medibank Private on the Assistant Derivative Fees tab.

Assisted Billing report

The Assistant Service Report provides details on assisted billing, including the assisting surgeon, fees and any amounts outstanding.

To open the Assistant Service Report:

1. Go to Zedmed's **Management** tab.
2. Select **Reports > Assistant Service Report**.

The **Assistant Service Report** screen will open.

3. Select the required **Options** and **Criteria**.
4. Select **Print** to print out the report or **Screen** to open it. The **Screen** view has print and save menu options.

To learn more, see the Assisted Billing guide.

