

MBS Remuneration

to support planned palliative care for patients

Palliative care planning can improve the management of a patient's health conditions and help avoid unplanned hospital admissions. While there are no palliative care specific MBS item numbers applicable to general practice, there are a number of general MBS item numbers that can be utilised to support palliative care planning.

PLANNED PALLIATIVE CARE FOR GENERAL PRACTICE

A palliative care approach is appropriate when the goal of care shifts from cure to symptom management and supporting quality of life.

To assist with the early identification of patients who would benefit from a palliative care approach, it is recommended that clinicians utilise a prognostic trigger, such as the Surprise Question: 'Would you be surprised if this patient dies in the next year?' Included here is a table of suggested timeframes for Medicare initiatives and the associated MBS items.

Additional consultations can be inserted to address unplanned care needs.

For practices participating in the Palliative Care Outcomes Collaborative (PCOC), it is recommended that PCOC assessments be undertaken at the appointments indicated.

From 1 July 2022, ongoing MBS telehealth arrangements remain in place and provide for a wide range of telephone and video services by qualified health practitioners. See fact sheet on MBS online.

Palliative Care Planning in General Practice:

- The practice nurse can assist GPs with planning palliative care appointments and reviews.
- Set up reminders for the Medicare initiatives and book appointments ahead of time.
- Schedule longer appointments for planned services and to explore end of life needs.
- Undertake Advance Care Planning and end of life care discussions as an ongoing conversation.
- All services and care arrangements are at the discretion of the treating GP and this document serves as a guide only.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Medicare Benefits Schedule

<http://www.mbsonline.gov.au>

Practice Incentives Program

<https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/practiceincentives-program>

Palliative Care Outcome Collaborative (PCOC)

<https://ahsri.uow.edu.au/pcoc/index.html>

Caresearch

<https://caresearch.com.au>

Advance Care Planning Australia

<https://www.advancecareplanning.org.au/>

PalliAGEDgp & PalliAGEDnurse - Two free apps to guide GPs and nurses in the delivery of good palliative care for their older patients.

PalliMEDS - Free app to support the clinical knowledge of health professionals who prescribe palliative care medicines.

Palliative Medicine Pocket book - Free app for Doctors, Specialists and GPs containing brief suggestions for symptom relief in palliative patients.

PLANNED PALLIATIVE CARE FOR GENERAL PRACTICE

Timeframe	Medicare initiative as clinically required	Palliative Care Considerations	MBS items	Rebate 100% Sept 2022
0 weeks	Health assessments	Introduce ACP. PCOC Assessment	701, 703, 705, 707	\$62.75–\$284.20
2nd week	GP Management Plan	Patients with chronic disease or terminal illness. Continue ACP	721	\$152.50
	Team Care Arrangement	Requires at least 3 providers, including GP to collaborate on care. Entitles patient to Medicare allied health services, 5 per year.	723	\$120.85
3rd week	GP Mental Health Treatment Plan	Use DSM – 5. Select item based on time & GP training.	2700-2717	\$75.80 - \$141.80
1st month	Multidisciplinary Case Conference	At least one medical condition present for at least six months, or terminal. Organised by GP, 20-40 mins, requires 2 other providers in real time.	739	\$127.85
2nd month	Domiciliary and Residential Medication Management Review	Referral to eligible pharmacist to maximise community patient's benefit from medication regimen. Generally 1 per year.	900	\$163.70
4th month	Level D Consultation	Continue ACP & symptom management. At least 40 minute consultation. PCOC Assessment	44	\$113.30
5th month	Review GP Mental Health Care Plan	4 weeks to 6 months after preparation of plan, review referral feedback and progress against care goals.	2712	\$75.80
6th month	GP Management Plan Review	Discuss progress against goals and actions. PCOC Assessment	729, 731, 732	\$74.40 - \$76.15
	Review Team Care Arrangement	Discuss progress with team members.	739	\$127.85
8th month	Multidisciplinary Case Conference	Organised by GP, 15-20 minutes, GP + 2 other providers in real time.	735	\$74.75
5 per year	Practice Nurse care plan Monitoring	GP management plan in place. Maximum 5 services per patient annually. PCOC Assessment	10997	\$12.70
After 12 months	Repeat above schedule as clinically required			

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