



# COVID-19 Temporary MBS Telehealth Services

LAST UPDATED: 8 May 2020

*Commencing 13 March 2020, new temporary MBS telehealth items have been made available to help reduce the risk of community transmission of COVID-19 and provide protection for patients and health care providers.*

The list of telehealth services has continued to expand since 13 March. This is the latest factsheet and provides details on all current telehealth items.

- The new temporary MBS telehealth items are available to GPs, medical practitioners, nurse practitioners, participating midwives and allied health providers.
- A service may only be provided by telehealth where it is safe and clinically appropriate to do so.
- The new temporary MBS telehealth items are for out-of-hospital patients.
- It is a legislative requirement that the GPs and Other Medical Practitioner (OMP) new telehealth services, must be bulk billed for Commonwealth concession card holders, children under 16 years old and patients who are more vulnerable to COVID-19.
- As of 20 April 2020, specialist and allied health service providers are no longer required to bulk bill these new telehealth items.
- Providers are expected to obtain informed financial consent from patients prior to providing the service; providing details regarding their fees, including any out-of-pocket costs.
- The bulk-billing incentive Medicare fees have temporarily doubled (until 30 September) for items relating to GP and OMP services, diagnostic imaging services (items 64990 and 64991) and pathology services (items 74990 and 74990). These items can be claimed with the telehealth items where appropriate. The fees are provided later in the factsheet. As of 20 April, two new bulk-billing incentive items have been introduced for services provided to patients who are more vulnerable to COVID-19.

## WHAT ARE THE CHANGES?

As part of the Australian Government's response to COVID-19, new temporary MBS telehealth items have been introduced to ensure continued access to essential Medicare rebated consultation services. As of 30 March 2020 these items have become general in nature and have no relation to diagnosing, treating or suspecting COVID-19. A list of the new telehealth items is provided later in this fact sheet.

## WHY ARE THE CHANGES BEING MADE?

The new temporary MBS telehealth items will allow people to access essential Medicare funded health services in their homes and reduce their risk of exposure to COVID-19 within the community.

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

The new temporary MBS telehealth items are available to providers of telehealth services for a wide range of consultations. All Medicare eligible Australians can now receive these services.

GP and OMP services provided using the MBS telehealth items must be bulk billed for Commonwealth concession card holders, children under 16 years of age, and patients who are more vulnerable to COVID-19. For specialist and allied health services, bulk billing is at the discretion of the provider, so long as informed financial consent is obtained prior to the provision of the service.

Vulnerable means a patient at risk of COVID-19, so a person who:

- is required to self-isolate or self-quarantine in accordance with guidance issued by the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee in relation to COVID-19; or
- is at least 70 years old; or
- if the person identifies as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent—is at least 50 years old; or
- is pregnant; or
- is the parent of a child aged under 12 months; or
- is being treated for a chronic health condition; or
- is immune compromised; or
- meets the current national triage protocol criteria for suspected COVID-19 infection.

A chronic health condition is medical condition that has been present (or is likely to be present) for at least six months or is terminal. The Department of Health website provides additional detail online: <https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/chronic-conditions/about-chronic-conditions>. The diagnosis of immune compromised is a clinical decision made by the patient's treating doctor. Please note this is guidance only, and does not constitute MBS claiming advice.

## WHAT TELEHEALTH OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE?

Video-conference services are the preferred approach for substituting a face-to-face consultation. However, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, providers will also be able to offer audio-only services via telephone if video is not available. There are separate items available for the audio-only services.

No specific equipment is required to provide Medicare-compliant telehealth services. Practitioners must ensure that their chosen telecommunications solution meets their clinical requirements and satisfies privacy laws. To assist providers with their privacy obligations, a privacy checklist for telehealth services has been made available on MBSOnline: <http://www.mbsonline.gov.au/internet/mbsonline/publishing.nsf/Content/Factsheet-TelehealthPrivChecklist>. Further information can be found on the Australian Cyber Security Centre website.

## GENERAL PRACTITIONER ATTENDANCES

These services need to be bulk-billed, and are for non-admitted patients.

SERVICE	EXISTING ITEMS face to face	TELEHEALTH ITEMS via video-conference	TELEPHONE ITEMS for when VC is not available	AS AT 30/3
<b>STANDARD GP ATTENDANCE</b>				
Attendance for an obvious problem	3	91790	91795	\$17.50
Attendance less than 20 minutes	23	91800	91809	\$38.20
Attendance at least 20 minutes	36	91801	91810	\$73.95
Attendance at least 40 minutes	44	91802	91811	\$108.85
<b>HEALTH ASSESSMENT</b>				
GP ATSI health assessment	715	92004	92016	\$215.65
<b>CHRONIC DISEASE MANAGEMENT</b>				
GP management plan, prepare	721	92024	92068	\$146.55
GP team care arrangement, co-ordinate development	723	92025	92069	\$116.45
GP contribution to prepare or review a multidisciplinary care plan, prepared by another provider	729	92026	92070	\$116.45
GP contribution to prepare or review a multidisciplinary care plan, prepared by a provider when the patient was admitted or by a RACF	731	92027	92071	\$116.45
GP attendance to coordinate a GP management plan or team care arrangements	732	92028	92072	\$73.20
<b>AUTISM MANAGEMENT</b>				
GP early intervention services for children with autism, pervasive developmental disorder or disability	139	92142	92145	\$136.65
<b>PREGNANCY SUPPORT</b>				
GP pregnancy support item, more than 20 minutes	4001	92136	92138	\$77.85
GP without mental health training, prepare an eating disorder treatment and management plan, 20 to 40 minutes	90250	92146	92154	\$72.85
GP without mental health training, prepare an eating disorder treatment and management plan, more than 40 minutes	90251	92147	92155	\$107.25
GP with mental health training, prepare an eating disorder treatment and management plan, 20 to 40 minutes	90252	92148	92156	\$92.50
GP with mental health training, prepare an eating disorder treatment and management plan, more than 40 minutes	90253	92149	92157	\$136.25
GP to review an eating disorder plan	90264	92170	92176	\$72.85
GP eating disorder FPS treatment, 30 to 40 minutes	90271	92182	92194	\$94.25
GP eating disorder FPS treatment, > 40 mins	90273	92184	92196	\$134.85
<b>MENTAL HEALTH</b>				
<i>General Practitioners (credentialed with CEM)</i>				
GP without mental health training, prepare a mental health plan, 20 to 40 minutes	2700	92112	92124	\$72.85

SERVICE	EXISTING ITEMS face to face	TELEHEALTH ITEMS via video-conference	TELEPHONE ITEMS for when VC is not available	AS AT 30/3
GP without mental health training, prepare a mental health plan, more than 40 minutes	2701	92113	92125	\$107.25
GP to review a mental health plan	2712	92114	92126	\$72.85
GP mental health consult, more than 20 minutes	2713	92115	92127	\$72.85
GP with mental health training, prepare a mental health plan, 20 to 40 minutes	2715	92116	92128	\$92.50
GP with mental health training, prepare a mental health plan, more than 40 minutes	2717	92117	92129	\$136.25
FPS treatment of 30 to 40 minutes	2729	91818	91842	\$94.25
FPS treatment of more than 40 minutes	2731	91819	91843	\$72.85
<b>URGENT AFTER HOURS</b>				
GP urgent after hours, unsociable	599	92210	92216	\$155.45

## OTHER MEDICAL PRACTITIONER ATTENDANCES (OMP)

These services need to be bulk-billed, and are for non-admitted patients.

SERVICE	EXISTING ITEMS face to face	TELEHEALTH ITEMS via video-conference	TELEPHONE ITEMS for when VC is not available	AS AT 30/3
Attendance of not more than 5 minutes	52	91792	91797	\$11.00
Attendance of more than 5 minutes but not more than 25 minutes	53	91803	91812	\$21.00
Attendance of more than 25 minutes but not more than 45 minutes	54	91804	91813	\$38.00
Attendance of more than 45 minutes	57	91805	91814	\$61.00
Attendance of not more than 5 minutes	179	91794	91799	\$14.00
Attendance of more than 5 minutes but not more than 25 minutes. Modified Monash 2-7 area	185	91806	91815	\$30.55
Attendance of more than 25 minutes but not more than 45 minutes. Modified Monash 2-7 area	189	91807	91816	\$59.50
Attendance of more than 45 minutes. Modified Monash 2-7 area	203	91808	91817	\$87.10
<b>HEALTH ASSESSMENT</b>				
OMP ATSI health assessment	228	92011	92023	\$172.50
Chronic Disease Management				
OMP management plan, prepare	229	92055	92099	\$117.25
OMP team care arrangement, coordinate development	230	92056	92100	\$92.90
OMP contribution to prepare or review a multidisciplinary care plan, prepared by another provider	231	92057	92101	\$57.25
OMP contribution to prepare or review a multidisciplinary care plan, prepared by a provider when the patient was admitted or by a RACF	232	92058	92102	\$57.25
OMP attendance to coordinate a GP management plan or team care arrangements	233	92059	92103	\$58.55
<b>PREGNANCY SUPPORT</b>				
OMP with mental health training, prepare an eating disorder treatment and management plan, 20 to 40 minutes	90256	92152	92160	\$74.00
OMP with mental health training, prepare an eating disorder treatment and management plan, at least 40 minutes	90257	92153	92161	\$109.00
OMP to review an eating disorder plan	90265	92171	92177	\$58.30
OMP eating disorder FPS treatment, 30 to 40 minutes	90275	92186	92198	\$75.40
OMP eating disorder FPS treatment, more than 40 minutes	90277	92188	92200	\$107.90
<b>MENTAL HEALTH</b>				
OMP without mental health training, prepare a mental health plan, 20 to 40 minutes	272	92118	92130	\$58.30
OMP without mental health training, prepare a mental health plan, more than 40 minutes	276	92119	92131	\$85.80
OMP to review a mental health plan	277	92120	92132	\$58.30

SERVICE	EXISTING ITEMS face to face	TELEHEALTH ITEMS via video-conference	TELEPHONE ITEMS for when VC is not available	AS AT 30/3
OMP mental health consult, more than 20 minutes	279	92121	92133	\$58.30
OMP with mental health training, prepare a mental health plan, 20 to 40 minutes	281	92122	92134	\$74.00
OMP with mental health training, prepare a mental health plan, more than 40 minutes	282	92123	92135	\$109.00
FPS treatment of 30 to 40 minutes	371	91820	91844	\$75.40
FPS treatment of more than 40 minutes	372	91821	91845	\$107.90
OMP without mental health training, prepare an eating disorder treatment and management plan, 20 to 40 minutes	90254	92150	92158	\$58.30
OMP without mental health training, prepare an eating disorder treatment and management plan, more than 40 minutes	90255	92151	92159	\$85.80
<b>URGENT AFTER HOURS</b>				
OMP urgent after hours, unsociable	600	92211	92217	\$124.25



Australian Government



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