

COVID-19 Bulk Billed MBS Telehealth Services

GPs and Other Medical Practitioners

Fact Sheet
Version 1 / March 2020

From 13 March 2020 to 30 September 2020 (inclusive), new MBS telehealth items are available for services to:

- vulnerable people within the community or;
- in suspect cases in self-isolation due to COVID-19.
- to enable GPs and other medical practitioners in self-isolation or quarantine due to COVID-19 to provide essential services where appropriate.

The new services must be bulk billed.

Eligibility

Medicare rebates will be paid for services provided to:

- people isolating themselves at home on the advice of a medical practitioner or in accordance with home isolation guidance issued by the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC);
- people who meet the testing guidelines for COVID-19;
- people aged over 70;
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged over 50;
- people with chronic health conditions or who are immunocompromised; and
- parents with new babies and people who are pregnant.

Where can I find more information?

- COVID-19 National Health Plan resources for the general public, health professionals and industry are available from the Australian Government Department of Health website www.health.gov.au/.
- The full item descriptor(s) and information on other changes to the MBS can be found on the MBS Online website at www.mbsonline.gov.au/. You can also subscribe to future MBS updates by visiting MBS Online and clicking 'Subscribe'.
- The Department of Health provides an email advice service for providers seeking advice on interpretation of the MBS items and rules and the Health Insurance Act and associated regulations. If you have a query relating exclusively to interpretation of the Schedule, you should email askMBS@health.gov.au.
- Subscribe to 'News for Health Professionals' on the Services Australia website and you will receive regular news highlights.

General Practitioner Item Numbers

Item	Routine hours consultation in surgery (VR)	Fee
3	(Level A) Brief	\$17.50
23	(Level B) Standard <20 mins	\$38.20
36	(Level C) Long 20-40 mins	\$73.95
44	(Level D) Prolonged ≥40 mins	\$108.85
Item	COVID-19 Video conference items Must be bulk billed	Fee*
91800	(Level B) Standard <20 mins Patient cohort and isolated doctors.	\$44.90
91801	(Level C) Long 20-40 mins Patient cohort and isolated doctors.	\$87.00
91802	(Level D) Prolonged ≥40 mins Patient cohort and isolated doctors.	\$128.05
Item	COVID-19 Telephone items Must be bulk billed	Fee*
91809	(Level B) Standard <20 mins Patient cohort and isolated doctors.	\$44.90
91810	(Level C) Long 20-40 mins Patient cohort and isolated doctors.	\$87.00
91811	(Level D) Prolonged ≥40 mins Patient cohort and isolated doctors.	\$128.05

*Medicare rebates are paid at 85% percentage of the Medicare Schedule Fee. Please use the [MBS online search](#) to confirm the available rebate.

Source: www.mbsonline.gov.au (Mar 2020) – refer to source for full item details including eligibility & restrictions.

*75% and/or 85%/100% rebate also applies to some of these item numbers

** Refer to MBS(Medicare Benefit Schedule) for full patient eligibility guidelines.

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Other Medical Practitioners Item Numbers

Item	Routine hours consultation in surgery (Non-VR)	Fee*
52	(Level A) Brief ≥ 5 mins	\$11.00
53	(Level B) Standard <25 mins	\$21.00
54	(Level C) Long 25-45 mins	\$38.00
57	(Level D) Prolonged ≥45 mins	\$61.00
Item	COVID-19 Video conference item *Must be bulk billed (Non-VR)	Fee*
91803	(Level B) Standard <25 mins Patient cohort and isolated doctors.	\$24.70
91804	(Level C) Long 25-45 mins Patient cohort and isolated doctors.	\$44.70
91805	(Level D) Prolonged ≥45 mins Patient cohort and isolated doctors.	\$71.75
Item	COVID-19 Telephone items *Must be bulk billed (Non-VR)	Fee*
91812	(Level B) Standard <25 mins Patient cohort and isolated doctors.	\$24.70
91813	(Level C) Long 25-45 mins Patient cohort and isolated doctors.	\$44.70
91814	(Level D) Prolonged ≥45 mins Patient cohort and isolated doctors.	\$71.75

*Medicare rebates are paid at 85% percentage of the Medicare Schedule Fee. Please use the [MBS online search](#) to confirm the available rebate.

Other Medical Practitioners Item Numbers Modified Monash 2-7 area

Item	Routine hours consultation in surgery (Non-VR Modified Monash 2-7 area)	Fee*
185	(Level B) Standard <25 mins Patient cohort and isolated doctors.	\$30.55
189	(Level C) Long 25-45 mins Patient cohort and isolated doctors.	\$59.15
203	(Level D) Prolonged ≥45 mins Patient cohort and isolated doctors.	\$87.10

Item	COVID-19 Video conference items *Must be bulk billed (Non VR Modified Monash 2-7 area)	Fee*
91806	(Level B) Standard <25 mins Patient cohort and isolated doctors.	\$35.90
91807	(Level C) Long 25-45 mins Patient cohort and isolated doctors.	\$69.55
91808	(Level D) Prolonged ≥45 mins Patient cohort and isolated doctors.	\$102.45
Item	COVID-19 Telephone items *Must be bulk billed (Non VR Modified Monash 2-7 area)	Fee*
91815	(Level B) Standard <25 mins Patient cohort and isolated doctors.	\$35.90
91816	(Level C) Long 25-45 mins Patient cohort and isolated doctors.	\$69.55
91817	(Level D) Prolonged ≥45 mins Patient cohort and isolated doctors.	\$102.45

*Medicare rebates are paid at 85% percentage of the Medicare Schedule Fee. Please use the [MBS online search](#) to confirm the available rebate.

What does this mean for providers?

Providers will benefit from the greater flexibility in delivering services to vulnerable patients within their care.

Providers do not need to be in their regular practice to provide telehealth services. Providers who offer their services from home isolation or quarantine should use their provider number for their primary location and must provide safe services in accordance with normal professional standards.

The new telehealth services must be bulk billed, meaning MBS rebates are paid to the provider. Rebates will be paid at 85% of the new item fee amount, which have been increased to result in the same payment as an equivalent GP face to face service. (The Department of Health has not been able to amend the regulations, which set out 100% rebates, due to the urgency of these arrangements).

Source: www.mbsonline.gov.au (Mar 2020) – refer to source for full item details including eligibility & restrictions.

*75% and/or 85%/100% rebate also applies to some of these item numbers

** Refer to MBS(Medicare Benefit Schedule) for full patient eligibility guidelines.