



What are the Telehealth Medicare Benefits Schedule Items?

In July 2011, the Australian Government introduced a series of Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) items for patients located in remote, regional and outer metropolitan areas to conduct consultations via video conference with medical specialists, known as Telehealth.

The Telehealth MBS items enable patients in these areas to have easier access to specialists without the time and expense involved in travelling to major cities.

To qualify for the Telehealth MBS items, the patient must be located in an Australian Standard Geographical Classification Remoteness Area (RA) 2-5.

Residential aged care facilities and Aboriginal medical services are also eligible for the Telehealth items throughout Australia regardless of location.

Collaborative consultation

Where the referring general practitioner, specialist, consultant physician or psychiatrist forms the view that it is clinically necessary for the patient to be accompanied during the Telehealth consultation, the referring general practitioner, a nurse practitioner, midwife, practice nurse, Aboriginal health worker or registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island health practitioner may be present during the consultation and claim the appropriate MBS item for the patient-end support service.

Telehealth Medicare Benefit Schedule item numbers

Eligible medical practitioners can access Telehealth MBS items which provide financial

benefits for Medicare and Department of Veterans' Affairs patients.

There are 23 MBS item numbers available to enable general practitioners, nurse practitioners, midwives, practice nurses, Aboriginal health workers or registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island health practitioners to provide clinical support where necessary to the patient during a video consultation with a specialist, consultant physician or consultant psychiatrist.

There are also 11 derived fee Telehealth MBS item numbers available to specialists, consultant physicians and consultant psychiatrists that, when claimed in conjunction with an existing MBS attendance item number, enable that consultation to be claimed as a video consultation.

Restrictions

In order to claim Telehealth MBS item numbers:

- There must be a minimum distance of 15 kilometres between the specialist and the patient. The minimum distance rule does not apply to eligible Aboriginal medical services or residential aged care facilities.
- Telehealth attendance items are not payable for services to an admitted hospital patient.
- Benefits are not payable for telephone or email consultations.
- There must be a visual and audio link between the patient end and the specialist end.
- If the medical practitioners are unable to establish both a video and audio link with the patient, a MBS rebate for a Telehealth attendance is not payable.

Whilst all care has been taken in preparing this document, this information is a guide only and subject to change without notice.

Practice Assist is an initiative of



WA Primary Health Alliance is supported by funding from the Australian Government under the PHN Program.

Rural Health West is funded by the Australian Government and the WA Country Health Service.

Patient end Telehealth Medicare Benefits Schedule Items

MBS Item	Duration	Location of service
Telehealth attendance by a medical practitioner (including a general practitioner, specialist or consultant physician)		
<u>2100</u>	At least 5 minutes	At consulting rooms outside an inner metropolitan area or at an Aboriginal medical service
<u>2126</u>	Less than 20 minutes	
<u>2143</u>	At least 20 minutes	
<u>2195</u>	At least 40 minutes	
<u>2122</u>	At least 5 minutes	Not at consulting rooms such as a home visit or other institution outside an inner metropolitan area
<u>2137</u>	Less than 20 minutes	
<u>2147</u>	At least 20 minutes	
<u>2199</u>	At least 40 minutes	
<u>2125</u>	At least 5 minutes	At a residential aged care facility
<u>2138</u>	Less than 20 minutes	
<u>2179</u>	At least 20 minutes	
<u>2220</u>	At least 40 minutes	
Telehealth attendance by a participating nurse practitioner		
82220	Less than 20 minutes	Outside an inner metropolitan area; or At an Aboriginal medical service
82221	At least 20 minutes	
82222	At least 40 minutes	
82223	Less than 20 minutes	At a residential aged care facility
82224	At least 20 minutes	
82225	At least 40 minutes	
Telehealth attendance by a participating midwife		
82150	Less than 20 minutes	Outside an inner metropolitan area; or At an Aboriginal medical service
82151	At least 20 minutes	
82152	At least 40 minutes	
Telehealth attendance by a practice nurse, AHW or an ATSI health practitioner provided on behalf of and under the supervision of a medical practitioner		
10983	n/a	Outside an inner metropolitan area; or At an Aboriginal medical service
10984	n/a	At a residential aged care facility
Telehealth attendance items by specialists, consultant physicians and psychiatrists.		
99,112, 149, 288, 389, 2820, 3015, 6016	<p>These items allow a range of existing MBS attendance items to be provided via video conferencing.</p> <p>These items have a derived fee which is equal to 50% of the schedule fee for the consultation item claimed (eg 50% of the schedule fee for item 104) when billed with one of the associated consultation items (such as 104).</p> <p>A patient rebate of 85% for the derived fee is payable.</p>	
113, 114, 384, 2799, 3003, 6004	<p>These items provide for an initial attendance via videoconferencing by a specialist, consultant physician, consultant occupational physician, pain medicine specialist/consultant physician, palliative medicine specialist/consultant physician or neurosurgeon where the service is 10 minutes or less.</p> <p>The items are stand-alone items and do not have a derived fee.</p>	

More information

Medicare Benefits Schedule

www.mbsonline.gov.au

Practice Assist

Free Call: 1800 2 ASSIST (1800 2 277 478)