



# Medicare Benefits Schedule Telehealth Items

In July 2011, the Australian Government introduced Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) items for remote, regional and outer metropolitan Telehealth services for specialist consultations.

The Telehealth MBS items enable patients in remote, regional and outer metropolitan areas of Australia to have easier access to specialists without the time and expense involved in travelling to major cities.

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

Residential aged cared facilities and Aboriginal medical services are eligible 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 (AHW) or registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island (ATSI) health practitioner may be present during the consultation and claim a 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.

23 MBS item numbers are available to enable general practitioners, nurse practitioners,

midwives, practice nurses, AHWs and ATSI 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 attendance item number, enable that consultation to be claimed as a video consultation.

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



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## 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.
- In order to fulfil the item descriptor 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.

## More information

- Website:  
<https://www.humanservices.gov.au/health-professionals/services/medicare/mbs-and-telehealth>
- General information: 132 150

## Patient end Telehealth services

MBS item	Duration	Location of service
<b>Telehealth attendance by a medical practitioner (including a general practitioner, specialist or consultant physician)</b>		
2100	At least 5 minutes	<b>At consulting rooms</b> outside an inner metropolitan area or at an Aboriginal Medical Service
2126	Less than 20 minutes	
2143	At least 20 minutes	
2195	At least 40 minutes	
2122	At least 5 minutes	<b>Not at consulting rooms</b> such as a home visit or other institution outside an inner metropolitan area
2137	Less than 20 minutes	
2147	At least 20 minutes	
2199	At least 40 minutes	
2125	At least 5 minutes	At a <b>residential aged care facility</b>
2138	Less than 20 minutes	
2179	At least 20 minutes	
2220	At least 40 minutes	
<b>Telehealth attendance by a participating nurse practitioner</b>		
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	
<b>Telehealth attendance by a participating midwife</b>		
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	
<b>Telehealth attendance by a practice nurse, AHW or an ATSI health practitioner provided on behalf of and under the supervision of a medical practitioner</b>		
10983	n/a	Outside an inner metropolitan area or at an Aboriginal Medical Service
10984	n/a	At a residential aged care facility

## Specialist Telehealth services

MBS items are available for specialist video consultations via video conferencing. These items allow a range of existing MBS attendance items to be provided via Telehealth by specialists, consultant physicians and consultant psychiatrists.

Telehealth MBS item	Medicare Benefit Schedule group	Used in conjunction with specialist consulting items
99	Specialist attendances	104, 105
112	Consultant physician	110, 116, 119, 132, 133
149	Geriatric medicine: consultant physician or specialist	141, 143
288	Consultant psychiatrist attendances	291, 293, 296, 300, 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314, 316, 318, 319, 348, 350, 352
389	Consultant occupational physician attendances	385, 386
2820	Pain medicine attendances	2801, 2806, 2814
3015	Palliative medicine attendances	3005, 3010, 3014
6016	Neurosurgery attendances	6007, 6009, 6011, 6013, 6015
13210	Assisted reproductive services	13209
16399	Obstetrics	16401, 16404, 16406, 16500, 16590, 16591
17609	Anaesthesia	17610, 17615, 17620, 17625, 17640, 17645, 17650, 17655, 17690
113 2799 114 3003 384 6004	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. These items are standalone and do not have a derived fee.	