

# Providing COVID-19 Vaccinations to Homebound Patients

Have you or your practice team identified patients who are homebound and haven't received their COVID-19 vaccinations? Homebound people have been identified as a vulnerable cohort who are at considerable risk of contracting COVID-19 and they have limited access to the COVID-19 vaccination program.

People are deemed to be homebound when they are unable to leave their home environment as a result of physical or psychological illness. Your practice may currently provide telehealth services and/or home visits to homebound patients or they may use a proxy to attend the practice on their behalf.

## Offer in-reach home visits to provide COVID-19 vaccinations

In addition to your current vaccination program, your practice could consider offering in-reach home visits to provide COVID-19 vaccinations to homebound patients.

To help your practice provide this service, below is information about the relevant MBS items.

## Off-site patient assessment – MBS items 93660 and 93661

- Attendance by a relevant, suitably qualified health professional on behalf of a medical practitioner for the purpose of assessing a patient's suitability for a dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, not within the practice location.
- Cannot be claimed with In-Depth Patient Assessment MBS items 10660 and 10661.
- Can be claimed with flag-fall item 90005.

MBS item number	Dose	Modified Monash Area	Health professional on behalf of GP/OMP
93660	Any dose	1	Not provided in practice location
93661	Any dose	2-7	Not provided in practice location

## Flag-fall payments for services provided outside consulting rooms

- GPs and OMPs assessing people to receive a COVID-19 vaccination outside of their consulting rooms may claim a flag-fall payment, including when undertaken by a suitably qualified health professional on behalf of a GP/OMP, in recognition of the increased costs in providing this service outside consulting rooms. The flag-fall is paid in addition to the vaccine suitability assessment items and can be claimed once for each visit to a residential aged care facility (RACF), residential disability facility, or a patient's home, regardless of how many patients are assessed for COVID-19 vaccination.
- MBS item 90005 may be co-claimed with a vaccine suitability assessment service provided as an initial attendance at an RACF, residential disability facility setting or a patient's place of residence, on one occasion. The flag-fall is applicable only to the first patient seen and must be billed in association with one of MBS items 93624, 93625, 93626, 93627, 93634, 93635, 93636, 93637, 93644, 93645, 93646, 93647, 93653, 93654, 93655, 93656, 93660 or 93661.

[WWW.PRACTICEASSIST.COM.AU](http://WWW.PRACTICEASSIST.COM.AU)

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 WA Country Health Service.

*Whilst all care has been taken in preparing this document, this information is a guide only and subject to change without notice.  
Disclaimer: While the Australian Government has contributed funding support for this website the information contained within it does not necessarily represent the views or policies of the Australian Government and has not been endorsed by the Australian Government.*

## In-depth patient assessment – MBS items 10660 (GP) and 10661 (OMP)

- Available to GPs and OMPs providing the COVID-19 vaccine suitability assessment to patients where additional assessment and advice is required, including in relation to the patient's individual risks and benefits associated with receiving a COVID-19 vaccine. The in-depth patient assessment cannot be linked to or be contingent on any other fee or service. That includes, but is not limited to:
  - patient registration fees for patients new to a practice
  - bookkeeping or registration fees for the appointment
  - general health checks (these should be incorporated into the bulk-billed patient eligibility assessment or bulk billed in-depth patient assessment)
  - any other billed service which the practice or practitioner requires before any COVID-19 MBS item.
- MBS item 10660 may be used to bill an in-depth patient assessment in conjunction with one of MBS items 93624, 93625, 93634, 93635, 93644, 93645, 93653 or 93654.
- MBS item 10661 may be used to bill an in-depth patient assessment in conjunction with one of MBS items 93626, 93627, 93636, 93637, 93646, 93647, 93655 or 93656.
- A patient may only ever receive one in-depth patient assessment service in their lifetime, billed to either MBS item 10660 or MBS item 10661.

## Further information

For further information about the above MBS item numbers, view the [Medicare Support for COVID-19 Vaccinations Frequently Asked Questions](#) or visit the [MBS Online website](#). To request PPE, complete and submit the [PPE Request online form](#).

If your practice cannot assist with providing COVID-19 vaccinations to homebound patients, they can request assistance from the WA Department of Health by submitting the [COVID-19 Vaccination: Further Assistance Required online form](#) or emailing [covid.immunisation@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:covid.immunisation@health.wa.gov.au)

WWW.PRACTICEASSIST.COM.AU

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 WA Country Health Service.

*Whilst all care has been taken in preparing this document, this information is a guide only and subject to change without notice.  
Disclaimer: While the Australian Government has contributed funding support for this website the information contained within it does not necessarily represent the views or policies of the Australian Government and has not been endorsed by the Australian Government.*