

# COVID-19 Bulk Billed Temporary MBS Telehealth Services Nurse Practitioners

Fact Sheet  
V6 / July 2021

From 13 March 2020 and extended until 31 December 2021 (inclusive), 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.

See MBS Online for criteria and eligibility.

## What are the changes?

As part of the Australian Government's response to COVID-19, eight (8) items for Nurse Practitioners have been introduced to ensure continued access to essential Medicare rebated consultation services.

## 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.

Bulk billing is at the discretion of the nurse practitioner, so long as informed financial consent is obtained prior to the provision of the service.

## What telehealth options are available?

Videoconference services are the preferred approach for substituting a face-to-face consultation.

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](#).

## What does this mean for providers?

The temporary MBS telehealth items allow nurse practitioners to continue to deliver essential health care services to patients within their care.

Nurse practitioners do not need to be in their regular practice to provide telehealth services. They should use their provider number for their primary location and must provide safe services in accordance with normal professional standards.

The telehealth MBS items can substitute for current face-to-face consultations that are available under the MBS when the service/s cannot be provided due to COVID-19 considerations. The MBS telehealth items have the same clinical requirements as the corresponding face-to-face consultation items.

For additional information on the use of telehealth items, please refer to the [Provider Frequently Asked Questions](#) document available on MBSOnline.

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## 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](https://www.health.gov.au).
- The full item descriptors and information on other changes to the MBS can be found on the MBS Online website at [www.mbsonline.gov.au](http://www.mbsonline.gov.au). You can also subscribe to future MBS updates by visiting [MBS Online](https://www.mbsonline.gov.au) 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](mailto:askMBS@health.gov.au).
- Subscribe to 'News for Health Professionals' on the Services Australia website and you will receive regular news highlights.
- If you are seeking advice in relation to Medicare billing, claiming, payments, or obtaining a provider number, please go to the Health Professionals page on the Services Australia website or contact Services Australia on the Provider Enquiry Line – 13 21 50.

## Nurse Practitioner Item Numbers

Item	COVID-19 Existing Items face to face	Fee*
82200	Attendance for an obvious problem	\$10.00
82205	(Level B) Standard <20 mins	\$21.80
82210	(Level C) Long 20-40 mins	\$41.35
82215	(Level D) Prolonged ≥40 mins	\$60.95
Item	COVID-19 Telehealth items via videoconference	Fee*
91192	Attendance for an obvious problem	\$10.00
91178	(Level B) Standard <20 mins	\$21.80
91179	(Level C) Long 20-40 mins	\$41.35
91180	(Level D) Prolonged ≥40 mins	\$60.95
Item	COVID-19 Telephone items – for when videoconferencing is not available	Fee*
91193	Attendance for an obvious problem	\$10.00
91189	(Level B) Standard < 20 mins	\$21.80
91190	(Level C) Long 20-40 mins	\$41.35
91191	(Level D) Prolonged ≥40 mins	\$60.95

Source: [www.mbsonline.gov.au](http://www.mbsonline.gov.au) (June 2021) – 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.