

Quick Guide: Temporary COVID-19 Bulk Billed MBS Telehealth Services

General Practitioners

From 13 March 2020 to 31 December 2021 (inclusive), temporary MBS items are available for telehealth and phone services, as part of the COVID-19 response.

The temporary MBS telehealth items are available to GPs, medical practitioners, specialists, consultant physicians, nurse practitioners, participating midwives, allied health providers and dental practitioners in the practice of oral and maxillofacial surgery.

It is a legislative requirement that GPs and Other Medical Practitioners (OMPs) working in general practice can only perform a telehealth service where they have an established clinical relationship with the patient, with limited exemptions. Further exemptions to this requirement were introduced on 1 July 2021.

In addition, the broad range of temporary GP and OMP telephone attendances were replaced with a smaller number of telephone items as of 1 July 2021. Longer telephone items for mental health treatment will continue to be available until 31 December 2021.

A service may only be provided by telehealth where it is safe and clinically appropriate to do so. The temporary MBS telehealth items are for out-of-hospital patients.

GP and OMP COVID-19 telehealth services are eligible for MBS incentive payments when provided as bulk billed services to Commonwealth concession card holders and children under 16 years of age. All providers are expected to obtain informed financial consent from patients prior to charging private fees for COVID-19 telehealth services.

A patient must assign their right to a Medicare benefit to an eligible provider by signing a completed assignment of benefit form.

From 16 July 2021, MBS items 92746 (for GPs) and 92747 (for OMPs) are available to practitioners providing telehealth services to people living in locations declared to be a COVID-19 hot-spot or are required to isolate or quarantine. Hot-spots are identified by the [Australian Government Department of Health](#).

What telehealth options are available?

Video conference services are the preferred approach for substituting a face-to-face consultation. However, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, providers can also offer audio-only services via telephone in some circumstances and where clinically appropriate. There are separate items available for the audio-only services.

No specific equipment is required to provide Medicare-compliant telehealth services. 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](#).

Source: www.mbsonline.gov.au (July 2021) – refer to source for full item details including eligibility & restrictions.

**Service must be for an unreferral service & for Commonwealth concession card holders or children under 16 years.*

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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Service	Existing items face to face	COVID-19 telehealth via video conference	COVID-19 telephone items
Standard Consultations			
GP attendance for an obvious problem	3	91790	
GP attendance less than 20 minutes	23	91800	
GP attendance at least 20 minutes	36	91801	
GP attendance at least 40 minutes	44	91802	
Short and long General Practitioner telephone consultations introduced on 1 July 2021			
Short consultation, less than 6 minutes	91890		
Long consultation, 6 minutes or greater	91891		
COVID-19 impacted area telephone services introduced on 16 July 2021			
GP consultation, 20 minutes or longer	92746		
After Hours			
GP urgent after hours, unsociable (11pm-7am)	599	92210	
Bulk Billing Incentives*			
Bulk Billing item: General medical services MM1		10990	
Bulk Billing item: General medical services MM2-7		10991	
Bulk Billing item: Diagnostic Imaging services		64990	
Bulk Billing item: Diagnostic Imaging services MM2-7		64991	
Bulk Billing item: Pathology services		74990	
Bulk Billing item: Pathology services MM2-7		74990	
Aboriginal Health Assessment			
GP ATSI health assessment	715	92004	
Chronic Disease Management			
GP management plan, prepare	721	92024	
GP team care arrangement, co-ordinate development	723	92025	
GP contribution to prepare or review a multidisciplinary care plan, prepared by another provider	729	92026	
GP contribution to prepare or review a multidisciplinary care plan, prepared by a provider when the patient was admitted or by a RACF	731	92027	
GP attendance to coordinate a GP management plan or team care arrangements	732	92028	
Pregnancy Support			
GP pregnancy support item, more than 20 minutes	4001	92136	92138

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Autism Management			
GP early intervention services for children with autism, pervasive developmental disorder or disability	139	92142	
Eating Disorder Management			
GP without mental health training, prepare an eating disorder treatment and management plan, 20 to 40 minutes	90250	92146	
GP without mental health training, prepare an eating disorder treatment and management plan, more than 40 minutes	90251	92147	
GP with mental health training, prepare an eating disorder treatment and management plan, 20 to 40 minutes	90252	92148	
GP with mental health training, prepare an eating disorder treatment and management plan, more than 40 minutes	90253	92149	
GP to review an eating disorder plan	90264	92170	92176
GP eating disorder FPS treatment, 30 to 40 minutes	90271	92182	92194
GP eating disorder FPS treatment, more than 40 minutes	90273	92184	92196
Mental Health			
GP without mental health training, prepare a mental health plan, 20 to 40 minutes	2700	92112	
GP without mental health training, prepare a mental health plan, more than 40 minutes	2701	92113	
GP to review a mental health plan	2712	92114	92126
GP mental health consult, more than 20 minutes	2713	92115	92127
GP with mental health training, prepare a mental health plan, 20 to 40 minutes	2715	92116	
GP with mental health training, prepare a mental health plan, more than 40 minutes	2717	92117	
Focused Psychological Strategies treatment of 30 to 40 minutes	2721 and 2729	91818	91842
Focused Psychological Strategies treatment of more than 40 minutes	2725 and 2731	91819	91843

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Blood borne viruses, sexual or reproductive health consultation introduced 1 July 2021			
Professional attendance for the provision of services related to blood borne viruses, sexual or reproductive health by a general practitioner of not more than 5 minutes		92715	92731
Professional attendance for the provision of services related to blood borne viruses, sexual or reproductive health by a general practitioner of more than 5 minutes in duration but not more than 20 minutes		92718	92734
Professional attendance for the provision of services related to blood borne viruses, sexual or reproductive health by a general practitioner of more than 20 minutes in duration but not more than 40 minutes		92721	92737
Professional attendance for the provision of services related to blood borne viruses, sexual or reproductive health by a general practitioner lasting at least 40 minutes in duration		92724	92740

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