

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

Other Medical 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](#).

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Service	Existing items face to face	COVID-19 telehealth via video conference	COVID-19 telephone items
Standard Consultations			
Attendance of not more than 5 minutes	52	91792	
Attendance of more than 5 minutes but not more than 25 minutes	53	91803	
Attendance of more than 25 minutes but not more than 45 minutes	54	91804	
Attendance of more than 45 minutes	57	91805	
Attendance of not more than 5 minutes	179	91794	
Attendance of more than 5 minutes but not more than 25 minutes. Modified Monash 2-7 area	185	91806	
Attendance of more than 25 minutes but not more than 45 minutes. Modified Monash 2-7 area	189	91807	
Attendance of more than 45 minutes. Modified Monash 2-7 area	203	91808	
After Hours			
OMP urgent after hours, unsociable	600	92211	
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	
Short and long OMP telephone consultations introduced on 1 July 2021			
Short consultation, less than 6 minutes		91892	
Long consultation, 6 minutes or greater		91893	
COVID-19 impacted area telephone services introduced on 16 July 2021			
OMP consultation, 20 minutes or longer		92747	
Aboriginal Health Assessment			
OMP ATSI health assessment	228	92011	
Chronic Disease Management			
OMP management plan, prepare	229	92055	
OMP team care arrangement, coordinate development	230	92056	
OMP contribution to prepare or review a multidisciplinary care plan, prepared by another provider	231	92057	
OMP contribution to prepare or review a multidisciplinary care plan, prepared by a provider when the patient was admitted or by a RACF	232	92058	
OMP attendance to coordinate a GP management plan or team care arrangements	233	92059	

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

*Service must be for an unREFERRED 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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Pregnancy Support Counselling program items introduced 30 March 2020			
Non-directive pregnancy support counselling of at least 20 minutes	792	92137	92139
Eating Disorder Management items introduced 30 March 2020			
Medical Practitioner without mental health skills training, preparation of an eating disorder treatment and management plan, lasting at least 20 minutes, but less than 40 minutes	90254	92150	
Medical Practitioner without mental health skills training, preparation of an eating disorder treatment and management plan, at least 40 minutes	90255	92151	
Medical Practitioner with mental health skills training, preparation of an eating disorder treatment and management plan, lasting at least 20 minutes, but less than 40 minutes	90256	92152	
Medical Practitioner with mental health skills training, preparation of an eating disorder treatment and management plan, at least 40 minutes	90257	92153	
Review of an eating disorder treatment and management plan	90265	92171	92177
Eating disorders psychological treatment (EDPT) service, lasting at least 30 minutes, but less than 40 minutes	90275	92186	92198
EDPT service, at least 40 minutes	90277	92188	92200
Mental Health items introduced 30 March 2020			
Medical Practitioner without mental health skills training, preparation of a GP mental health treatment plan, lasting at least 20 minutes, but less than 40 minutes	272	92118	
Medical Practitioner without mental health skills training, preparation of a GP mental health treatment plan, at least 40 minutes	276	92119	
Review of a GP mental health treatment plan or Psychiatrist Assessment and Management Plan	277	92120	92132
Medical Practitioner mental health treatment consultation, at least 20 minutes	279	92121	92133
Medical Practitioner with mental health skills training, preparation of a GP mental health treatment plan, lasting at least 20 minutes, but less than 40 minutes	281	92122	
Medical Practitioner with mental health skills training, preparation of a GP mental health treatment plan, at least 40 minutes	282	92123	
Mental Health items introduced 13 March 2020			
Focused Psychological Strategies (FPS) treatment, lasting at least 30 minutes, but less than 40 minutes	283 and 371	91820	91844
FPS treatment, at least 40 minutes	286 and 372	91821	91845

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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		92716	92732
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		92719	92735
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		92722	92738
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		92725	92741
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. Modified Monash 2-7 area		92717	92733
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. Modified Monash 2-7 area		92720	92736
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. Modified Monash 2-7 area		92723	92739
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. Modified Monash 2-7 area		92726	92742

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