

# Chronic Disease Management in Residential Aged Care Facilities

## Allied Health – Group Services

From 10 December 2020 to 30 June 2022 (inclusive), new Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) items will be available for care recipients in residential aged care facilities (RACFs). These items support the mental and physical health of aged care residents who have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic or the measures taken to contain its spread.

For these items, the person must be a care recipient in an RACF but not as an admitted patient of a hospital.

### What does this mean for providers?

These changes for care recipients in an RACF replicate the existing face to face and telehealth items for allied health chronic disease management plan services, Indigenous follow-up services for eligible patients who have received a health assessment, and group assessment services. There are also new temporary items that permit residential care recipients to access up to 10 services per calendar year for selected physical therapy services, including exercise physiology, occupational therapy and physiotherapy.

In addition, new temporary face to face MBS items will be introduced for care recipients in an RACF for longer initial individual allied health chronic disease management services and initial Indigenous follow-up services.

A flagfall is available for the items described in this fact sheet. This flagfall applies for the first patient attended during one attendance by the allied health practitioner at one RACF on one occasion. The fee for the health service described in whichever item applies plus \$48.50.

### Further information

- This fact sheet is one of six Practice Assist fact sheets that provide information about MBS items for care recipients in RACFs. Further information can be found on the [Practice Assist website](#).
- The full item descriptor(s) and information on other changes to the MBS can be viewed on the [MBS Online website](#), where you can also subscribe to future MBS updates by clicking 'subscribe'.
- The Department of Health provides email advice for providers about the interpretation of the MBS items and rules, and the Health Insurance Act and associated regulations. If you have a query relating exclusively to the interpretation of the MBS, email [askMBS@health.gov.au](mailto:askMBS@health.gov.au)
- To receive regular updates, subscribe to [News for health professionals](#) on the Services Australia website.

### Allied Health Group Services in RACFs Item Numbers - Assessment

- These items are applicable if the patient is a care recipient in a residential aged care facility.
- These items are for assessing the person's suitability for group services for the management of type 2 diabetes, including taking a comprehensive patient history, identifying an appropriate group services program based on the patient's needs and preparing the person for the group services if:
  - the person's type 2 diabetes is assessed, including taking a comprehensive patient history and identifying an appropriate treatment program based on the person's needs; and
  - the service is provided to a person whose type 2 diabetes is being managed under a multidisciplinary care plan for a residential aged care recipient or a GP management plan and team care arrangements, where the chronic or complex condition was being treated prior to the person receiving residential care; and
  - the person is referred to an eligible diabetes educator by the medical practitioner using a referral form that has been issued by the Department, or a referral form that contains all the components of the form issued by the Department; and
  - the service is provided to the person individually and in person; and
  - the service is of at least 45 minutes duration; and
  - after the service, the eligible allied health professional gives a written report to the referring medical practitioner.

Source: [www.mbsonline.gov.au](http://www.mbsonline.gov.au) (Dec 2020) – refer to source for full item details including eligibility and 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.

- These items can be provided once in a calendar year for each individual (in total for all items).

Item	Description	Fee*
93606	Diabetes education health service provided by an eligible diabetes educator for assessment of suitability for group services.	\$97.15
93607	Exercise physiology health service provided by an eligible exercise physiologist for assessment of suitability for group services.	\$97.15
93608	Dietetics health service provided by an eligible dietician for assessment of suitability for group services.	\$97.15

## Allied Health Group Services in RACFs Item Numbers

- These items are applicable if the patient is a care recipient in a residential aged care facility.
- These items are for group service for the management of type 2 diabetes if:
  - the person has been assessed as suitable for a type 2 diabetes group service under assessment item 81100, 81110, 81120, 93284, 93286, 93606, 93607 or 93608; and
  - the service is provided to a person who is part of a group of between 2 and 12 patients; and
  - the service is provided in person; and
  - the service is of at least 60 minutes duration; and
  - after the last service in the group services program provided to the person under item 81105, 81115, 81125, 93285, 93613, 93614, 93615 the eligible allied health professional prepares, or contributes to, a written report to be provided to the referring medical practitioner.
- These items can be provided no more than eight times in a calendar year for each individual (in total for all items).

93613	Diabetes education health service provided by an eligible diabetes educator.	\$20.70
93614	Exercise physiology health service provided by an eligible exercise physiologist.	\$20.70
93615	Dietetics health service provided by an eligible dietician.	\$20.70

## Physical Group Services in RACFs Item Numbers

- These items are applicable if the patient is a care recipient in a residential aged care facility.
- Additional exercise physiology health service provided to a care recipient in a residential aged care facility with type 2 diabetes, at a residential aged care facility, by an eligible exercise physiologist as a group service for the management of type 2 diabetes if:
  - the person has been assessed as suitable for a type 2 diabetes group service under assessment item 81100, 81110, 81120, 93284, 93286, 93606, 93607 or 93608; and
  - the person has received 8 services, to which an item in subgroup 2 of Group M31 or 81105, 81115, 81125 applied (in total for all items), in that calendar year.
  - the service is provided to a person who is part of a group of between 2 and 12 patients; and
  - the service is provided in person; and
  - the service is of at least 60 minutes duration; and
  - after the last service to which this item applies was provided to a person in a calendar year, the eligible exercise physiologist gives a written report to the referring medical practitioner.
- These items can be provided no more than two times in a calendar year for each individual.

93620	Additional exercise physiology health service provided by an eligible exercise physiologist.	\$20.70
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