



Australian Government
Medicare Australia



medicare

Medicare Australia



Australian Government
Medicare Australia

Who are we?



Medicare Australia is an Australian Government agency, delivering a range of payments and services to the Australian community.

Medicare Australia works in partnership with the Department of Health and Ageing to achieve the Australian Governments health policy objectives.



Australian Government
Medicare Australia

Programs



We administer a range of health programs on behalf of the Australian Government such as:

- Medicare
- Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme
- Australian Childhood Immunisation Register
- Australian Organ Donor Register
- Medicare Teen Dental Plan
- Australian Government 30% Private Health Insurance Rebate
- General Practice Immunisation Incentives Scheme
- Practice Incentives Program
- Rural Retention Program
- Depart Veterans Affairs
- Family Assistance Office
- Special Assistance Schemes(Bali Assist, London Assist etc)



Australian Government
Medicare Australia

Service Delivery Reform



On December 16 2009 Minister Chris Bowen announced a major reform to Australian Governments' Service Delivery.

“Works for you” is the Governments strategy to improve government service delivery to give Australians better access to social, health and welfare services.

The reform is about simplifying your dealings with Government by giving you more control, and better support and assistance when you need it.

From 2010 agencies such as Medicare, Centrelink and Child Support Agency will be Working closer together to achieve the above goals.



Australian Government
Medicare Australia

Changes to Medicare Primary Care Items



Effective 1st May 2010 there will be a number of changes to the MBS.

These include :

- Fee increases
- Item Descriptors for general attendance items
- Attendance Items out of consulting rooms
- After hours attendance items
- Health Assessment items
- Chronic Disease management items; and
- GP Multidisciplinary case conference items.



Prior to 1st May 2010 there were 10 health assessments available in the MBS. These will be replaced by four new time based items.

701	Brief Health Assessment less than 30 minutes duration	\$55.00
703	Standard Health Assessment between 30-45 minutes duration	\$127.80
705	Long Health Assessment between 45-60 minutes duration	\$176.30
707	Prolonged Health Assessment more than 60 minutes duration	\$249.10

In addition to this the 4 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health checks will be replaced by 1 new item.

715	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people health assessment	\$ 196.65
------------	--	-----------

Item 10986 replaces item 711(Healthy Kids Check provided by PN or Registered AHW)
If GP performs the Healthy Kids Check then they will claim a time based item accordingly.



Australian Government
Medicare Australia

Item 715



- Item 715 is recommended as an annual service but has a minimum 9 month claiming period.
- Individual requirements for child, adult and older person assessment unchanged.
- Practice nurse and AHW time included



Australian Government
Medicare Australia

Aboriginal Health Workers



What can an AHW assist their GP's with?

Health Assessments-

- Collecting Information
- Providing patients with information about recommended interventions at the direction of the medical practitioner.
- The time taken by the AHW to complete the above components can be included to claim Medicare Benefits.

Mental Health Care Treatment Plans-

An Aboriginal health worker with appropriate mental health qualifications and training may provide

general assistance to GP's in provision of mental health care where the GP considers that they have skills

appropriate to the assistance required.

GP Management Plans and Team Care Arrangements-

- Patient assessment
- Identification of patient needs
- Making arrangements for services



Australian Government

Medicare Australia

Aboriginal Health Workers



Quality Assurance for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Medical Services (QAAMS)

Effective management service for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through the use of on-site point-of-care pathology testing for HbA1c and ACR.

**The AMS must be participating in the QAAMS program and the health workers must have completed the QAAMS Training.

73840- HbA1c: quantitation of Glycosylated haemoglobin performed in the management of established diabetes- Max of 4 tests in 12 month period

Benefit: \$14.55

73844- ACR: quantitation of urinary microalbumin as determined by urine albumin excretion on a timed overnight sample or urine albumin/creatinine ratio as determined on a 1st morning urine sample in the management of established diabetes.

Benefit: \$17.45

(Please see your local MLO for more information on QAAMS)

*** Please note the above are examples of how an AHW can assist their GP. The GP is responsible for billing the appropriate item number.



Australian Government
Medicare Australia

AHW Item Numbers



10950

Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander Health service provided to a person who has a medical condition and complex care needs being managed by a GP under an EPC plan.

81300

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health service provided to a person who has had an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health check



Australian Government
Medicare Australia

Nurses



- GP retains overall responsibility for practice nurse services Including health and safety outcomes.
- Supervision at a distance is acceptable, which means that the GP does not have to be physically present.
- Immunisation covers registered vaccines(Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods)
- Item 10993 & 10996 can only be claimed once per visit irrespective of the number of vaccines given or wounds treated.



Australian Government
Medicare Australia

Practice Nurses



Item 10997

Service provided to a person with a chronic disease by a practice nurse or Registered Aboriginal Health Worker.

Services such as:

Checking clinical progress (blood pressure, glucose, weight etc)

Monitoring medication compliance

Providing self management advice

Collecting information to support GP reviews of care plans

Maximum of 5 services per calendar year

Benefit: \$11.35



Australian Government
Medicare Australia

REMINDER!!!!



Enrolments:

More emphasis needs to be put on staff to ensure all patients have current Medicare cards.

Ensure patients details are correct



Australian Government
Medicare Australia

Issues



Claiming:

Be thorough with rejections/ partially paid claims.

Often claims are rejected because not enough information is provided.



Australian Government
Medicare Australia

Issues



Provider Registrations:

Are all your health workers registered?

Ensure your GP's provider number is up to date.



Australian Government

Medicare Australia

Need Assistance?



Medicare Australia

Indigenous access line 1800 556 955*

Provider enquiry line 132 150*

medicare.prov@medicareaustralia.gov.au

www.medicareaustralia.gov.au

Sarah Borlini- Medicare Liaison Officer

08 9214 8253 0421 097 624

Sarah.borlini@medicareaustralia.gov.au

Department of Health and Ageing

www.health.gov.au

www.mbsonline.gov.au

www.pbs.gov.au

www.qaams.org.au

www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/health-pacd-

[medicare resource-kit](#)