



## MBS Specialist Telehealth Services from 1 January 2022

### CHANGES SUBJECT TO THE PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION

#### Non-GP medical specialists and approved dental practitioners

Last updated: 10 December 2021

- From 1 January 2022, patient access to specialist telehealth services will be supported by ongoing MBS arrangements.
- The arrangements build on the [temporary telehealth items](#) introduced as part of the Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including continued access to video telehealth services for a range of consultation or attendance items that can also be provided in person.
- The ongoing arrangements also consolidate previous MBS telehealth items introduced from 2002 and 2011 into a single, national MBS telehealth program.
- MBS rebates for specialist attendances provided by telephone will be available for less complex or shorter subsequent attendances.

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### What are the changes?

From 1 January 2022:

- Patients will continue to be able to access a range of specialist (out of hospital) attendances provided either in person (face to face) or by video.
- Patients can continue to access specialist services by telephone for less complex or shorter subsequent attendances, with a practitioner they have seen before.
- The telehealth items introduced in 2011 to encourage uptake of video telehealth in rural and remote areas and specific settings (50% loading items) will be replaced by the video telehealth items introduced during the pandemic (now available Australia wide).
- The patient-end support items associated with the 2011 telehealth arrangements will continue to be available where support is provided by an Aboriginal Health Worker, practice nurse or optometrist (available Australia wide), but not by a GP, medical specialist or other medical practitioner, midwife or nurse practitioner.
- The telepsychiatry items introduced from 2002 will be replaced by the video telehealth items introduced during the pandemic (available Australia wide).
- The inpatient telehealth items introduced in September 2021 as a temporary measure during the COVID-19 lockdowns will no longer be available.
- A new prescribed pattern of service will apply to telephone services provided by consultant physicians and GPs (a new '30/20 rule').



## What items will be available from 1 January 2022?

From 1 January 2022, 42 telehealth (video) and 9 telephone MBS items will be available for specialist services in addition to 8 items for obstetric services:

### Group A40, sub-groups 4-38:

- 3 items for specialist attendances (2 videoconference and 1 phone)
- 6 items for consultant physician attendances (5 videoconference and 1 phone)
- 1 specialist and consultant physician early intervention services (1 videoconference)
- 2 geriatrician services for assessment and management (2 videoconference)
- 20 consultant psychiatrist services including consultations, group psychotherapy and interviews (17 video conference and 3 phone)
- 3 paediatrician services for early intervention and services for treatment of eating disorders (3 videoconference)
- 6 items for public health physician attendances (4 videoconference and 2 phone)
- 6 items for neurosurgeon attendances (5 videoconference and 1 phone)
- 1 item for anaesthesia attendances (1 videoconference)
- 3 items for approved dental practitioners (2 videoconference, 1 phone).

### Group T4, sub-group1\*:

- 8 items for obstetricians, GPs, midwives, nurses, or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners (4 videoconference, 4 phone).

\*GPs and OMPs working in general practice can only perform a telehealth or telephone service where they have an established clinical relationship with the patient.

The tables below provide a list of:

- The specialist telehealth items that will apply from 1 January 2022 ([Attachment A](#)).
- The telehealth items that will no longer apply from 1 January 2022 ([Attachment B](#)).

## What MBS fees will apply to the telehealth items?

There are no changes to the MBS schedule fees for the items that are continuing from 1 January 2022 and rebates for equivalent face-to-face, video and telephone services will be the same.

MBS telehealth services do not need to be bulk billed. As with all MBS services, where a private fee is charged, the medical practitioner must ensure informed financial consent is obtained prior to the provision of the service.



## What is the new '30/20 rule'?

From 1 January 2022, a new prescribed pattern of service (a '30/20 rule') will apply to telephone attendances provided by consultant physicians. Under these new arrangements, a consultant physician who provides 30 or more phone attendances (claimed under MBS item 91836) on each of 20 or more days in a 12-month period would be referred to the Professional Services Review. A similar 30/20 rule is being introduced for GPs from 1 January 2022.

The PSR may take into account exceptional circumstances in considering the claiming practices of individual practitioners.

## What items can consultant physician's (psychiatrists or paediatricians) claim for eating disorder treatment and management plan services 1 January 2022?

From 1 January 2022, eating disorder treatment and management plan telehealth services provided by psychiatrists or paediatricians will continue under items 92162, 92172, 92163, 92173 (available Australia wide). Items 90262, 90268, 90263 and 90269 which were previously only available in some geographic areas and specific service settings, will no longer be available.

Service	Continuing	Not continuing
Psychiatry, prepare an eating disorder treatment and management plan – at least 45 minutes	92162	90262
Psychiatry, review an eating disorder treatment and management plan – at least 30 minutes	92172	90268
Paediatrician, prepare an eating disorder treatment and management plan – at least 45 minutes	92163	90263
Paediatrician, review an eating disorder treatment and management plan – at least 30 minutes	92173	90269

## Where can I find more information?

The full item descriptors and information on these changes will be uploaded to the [MBS Online website](#). You can also subscribe to future MBS updates by visiting [MBS Online](#) 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 the Services Australia Provider Enquiry Line – 132150. Please note that the information provided is a general guide only. It is ultimately the responsibility of treating practitioners to use their professional judgment to determine the most clinically appropriate services to provide, and then to ensure that any services billed to Medicare fully meet the eligibility requirements outlined in the legislation.*

*This sheet is current as of the Last updated date shown above and does not account for MBS changes since that date.*



## Attachment A

### MBS specialist telehealth items available from 1 January 2022

These items are for out-of-hospital services.

Table 1. Specialist services

Service	Equivalent face to face item	Video item	Telephone item for subsequent attendances
Specialist. Initial attendance	104	91822*	-
Specialist. Subsequent attendance	105	91823*	91833*

Specialist telehealth services (91822, 91823 and 91833) can be billed by all specialities that can currently bill MBS items 104 and 105 or equivalent MBS items. This includes sports and exercise medicine and occupational and environmental health medicine specialists.

Table 2. Consultant Physician services

Service	Equivalent face to face item	Video item	Telephone item for subsequent attendances
Consultant physician. Initial attendance	110	91824	-
Consultant physician. Subsequent attendance	116	91825	-
Consultant physician. Minor attendance	119	91826	91836

Consultant physician telehealth services (91824, 91825, 91826 and 91836) can be billed by all specialities that can currently bill MBS items 110, 116 and 119 or equivalent MBS items. This includes pain and palliative medicine, sexual health medicine and addiction medicine.

Table 3. Consultant Physician services

Service	Equivalent face to face item	Video item	Telephone item for subsequent attendances
Consultant physician. Initial assessment, patient with at least 2 morbidities, prepare a treatment and management plan, at least 45 minutes	132	92422	-
Consultant physician, Subsequent assessment, patient with at least 2 morbidities, review a treatment and management plan, at least 20 minutes	133	92423	-

Consultant physician telehealth services to prepare and review a management plan (92422 and 92423) can be billed by all physicians that can currently bill MBS items 132 and 133 or equivalent MBS items. This includes sexual health medicine, addiction medicine and paediatricians.



# MBS changes factsheet

Table 4. Specialist and Consultant Physician services

Service	Equivalent face to face item	Video item	Telephone item for subsequent attendances
Specialist or consultant physician early intervention services for children with autism, pervasive developmental disorder, or disability	137	92141	-

Specialists and consultant physician services for early intervention for children with pervasive developmental disorder (92141) can be billed by specialists and consultant physicians that are able to MBS item 137.

Table 5. Geriatrician services

Service	Equivalent face to face item	Video item	Telephone item for subsequent attendances
Geriatrician, prepare an assessment and management plan, patient at least 65 years, more than 60 minutes	141	92623	-
Geriatrician, review a management plan, more than 30 minutes	143	92624	-

Table 6. Consultant Psychiatrist services

Service	Equivalent face to face item	Video item	Telephone item for subsequent attendances
Consultant psychiatrist. Consultation, not more than 15 minutes	300	91827	91837*
Consultant psychiatrist. Consultation, 15 to 30 minutes	302	91828	91838*
Consultant psychiatrist. Consultation, 30 to 45 minutes	304	91829	91839*
Consultant psychiatrist. Consultation, 45 to 75 minutes	306	91830	-
Consultant psychiatrist. Consultation, more than 75 minutes	308	91831	-
Consultant psychiatrist, prepare a treatment and management plan, patient under 13 years with autism or another pervasive developmental disorder, at least 45 minutes	289	92434	-
Consultant psychiatrist, prepare a management plan, more than 45 minutes	291	92435	-
Consultant psychiatrist, review management plan, 30 to 45 minutes	293	92436	-
Consultant psychiatrist, attendance, new patient (or has not received attendance in preceding 24 mths), more than 45 minutes	296	92437	-



# MBS changes factsheet

Service	Equivalent face to face item	Video item	Telephone item for subsequent attendances
Consultant psychiatrist, interview of a person other than patient, in the course of initial diagnostic evaluation of patient, 20 to 45 minutes	348	92458	-
Consultant psychiatrist, interview of a person other than patient, in the course of initial diagnostic evaluation of patient, 45 minutes or more	350	92459	-
Consultant psychiatrist, interview of a person other than patient, in the course of continuing management of patient, not less than 20 minutes, not exceeding 4 attendances per calendar year	352	92460	-
Consultant psychiatrist, group psychotherapy, at least 1 hour, involving group of 2 to 9 unrelated patients or a family group of more than 3 patients, each referred to consultant psychiatrist	342	92455	-
Consultant psychiatrist, group psychotherapy, at least 1 hour, involving family group of 3 patients, each referred to consultant psychiatrist	344	92456	-
Consultant psychiatrist, group psychotherapy, at least 1 hour, involving family group of 2 patients, each referred to consultant psychiatrist	346	92457	-
Consultant psychiatrist, prepare an eating disorder treatment and management plan, more than 45 minutes	90260	92162	-
Consultant psychiatrist, to review an eating disorder plan, more than 30 minutes	90266	92172	-

\* Minor changes will be made to these items as they will not be able to be billed for a new patient.



# MBS changes factsheet

Table 7. Paediatrician services

Service	Equivalent face to face item	Video item	Telephone item for subsequent attendances
Paediatrician early intervention services for children with autism, pervasive developmental disorder, or disability	135	92140	-
Paediatrician, prepare an eating disorder treatment and management plan, more than 45 minutes	90261	92163	-
Paediatrician, to review an eating disorder plan, more than 30 minutes	90267	92173	-

Table 8. Public Health Physician services

Service	Equivalent face to face item	Video item	Telephone item for subsequent attendances
Public health physician, level A attendance	410	92513	92521
Public health physician, level B attendance, less than 20 minutes	411	92514	92522
Public health physician, level C attendance, at least 20 minutes	412	92515	-
Public health physician, level D attendance, at least 40 minutes	413	92516	-

Table 9. Neurosurgery attendances

Service	Equivalent face to face item	Video item	Telephone item for subsequent attendances
Neurosurgeon, initial attendance	6007	92610	-
Neurosurgeon, minor attendance	6009	92611	92618
Neurosurgeon, subsequent attendance, 15 to 30 minutes	6011	92612	-
Neurosurgeon, subsequent attendance, 30 to 45 minutes	6013	92613	-
Neurosurgeon, subsequent attendance, more than 45 minutes	6015	92614	-





# MBS changes factsheet

Table 10. Anaesthesia Attendances

Service	Equivalent face to face item	Video item	Telephone item for subsequent attendances
Anaesthetist, professional attendance, advanced or complex	17615	92701	-

Table 11. Approved Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Attendances

Service	Equivalent face to face item	Video item	Telephone item for subsequent attendances
Dental practitioner (oral and maxillofacial surgery only), initial attendance	51700	54001	-
Dental practitioner (oral and maxillofacial surgery only), subsequent attendance	51703	54002	54004

Table 12. Obstetricians, GPs, Midwives, Nurses or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner services

Service	Equivalent face to face item	Video item	Telephone item
Antenatal Service provided by a Nurse, Midwife or an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner on behalf of, and under the supervision of, a medical practitioner	16400	91850	91855
Postnatal attendance by an obstetrician or GP	16407	91851	91856
Postnatal attendance by: (i) a midwife (on behalf of and under the supervision of the medical practitioner who attended the birth); or (ii) an obstetrician; or (iii) a general practitioner	16408	91852	91857
Antenatal attendance	16500	91853	91858

GPs and OMPs working in general practice can only perform a telehealth or telephone service where they have an established clinical relationship with the patient.





## Attachment B

### MBS telehealth items no longer available from 1 January 2022

#### Specialist COVID-19 Phone Items

Speciality	Items no longer available
Specialist	91832
Consultant Physician	91834, 91835, 92431, 92432
Specialist and Consultant Physician	92144
Geriatrician Services	92628, 92629
Consultant Psychiatrist and Paediatrician	91840, 91841, 92474, 92475, 92476, 92477, 92498, 92499, 92500, 92495, 92496, 92497, 92166, 92178, 92143, 92167, 92179
Public health Physician	92523, 92524
Neurosurgery	92617, 92619, 92620, 92621
Anaesthesia	92712
Approved dental practitioner	54003

#### Specialist Inpatient COVID-19 Telehealth Items

Speciality	Items no longer available
Specialists	91846, 91847, 91848, 91849
Consultant Physician	92471, 92472, 92473, 92425, 92426, 92427
Consultant Psychiatrist	92461, 92462, 92463, 92464, 92465, 92466, 92501, 92502, 92503, 92504, 92505, 92506
Public health Physician	92517, 92518, 92519, 92520, 92525, 92526, 92527, 92528
Neurosurgery	92615, 92616, 92625, 92626
Anaesthesia	92702, 92713
Approved dental practitioner	54006, 54007, 54011, 54012



## Specialist Telehealth (introduced from 2011)

MBS Group	Items no longer available
GROUP A3 – specialist attendances	99
GROUP A4 – consultant physician	112
GROUP A28 – geriatric medicine – consultant physician or specialist	149
GROUP A8 – consultant psychiatrist attendances	288
GROUP A12 – consultant occupational physician attendances	389
GROUP A24, SUBGROUP 1 – pain medicine attendances	2820
GROUP A24, SUBGROUP 3 – palliative medicine attendances	3015
GROUP A26 – neurosurgery attendances	6016
GROUP T1 – miscellaneous therapeutic procedures SUBGROUP 3 – assisted reproductive services	13210
GROUP T4 – obstetrics	16399
GROUP T6 – anaesthesia	17609
GROUP A3 – specialist attendances	113
GROUP A4 – consultant physician	114
GROUP A12 – consultant occupational physician attendances	384
GROUP A24, SUBGROUP 1 – pain medicine attendances	2799
GROUP A24, SUBGROUP 3 – palliative medicine attendances	3003
GROUP A26 – neurosurgery attendances	6004



MBS Group	Items no longer available
GROUP A31, SUBGROUP 1 – addiction Medicine Attendances	6025, 6026
GROUP A32, SUBGROUP 1 – sexual Health Medicine Attendances	6059, 6060

## Telehealth Patient-end Support Items (introduced from 2011)

MBS Group	Items no longer available
GROUP A30, SUBGROUP 1 At consulting rooms in a telehealth eligible area or at an eligible Aboriginal Medical Service	2100, 2126, 2143, 2195
GROUP A30, SUBGROUP 1 Other than consulting rooms such as a home visit or other institution in a telehealth eligible area	2122, 2137, 2147, 2199
GROUP A30, SUBGROUP 2 At a residential aged care facility	2125, 2138, 2179, 2220
GROUP A7, SUBGROUP 12 Non-Specialist Practitioner Video Conferencing Consultation	812, 827, 829, 867, 868, 869, 873, 876, 881, 885, 891, 892
GROUP M13 Midwifery Services	82150, 82151, 82152
GROUP M14 Nurse Practitioners	82220, 82221, 82222, 82223, 82224, 82225

## Telepsychiatry Items (introduced from 2002)

MBS Group	Items no longer available
GROUP A8: Telepsychiatry - Consultant Psychiatrist Attendances	353, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 361, 364, 366, 367, 369, 370



## Consultant physician Items – psychiatrists and paediatricians

MBS Group	Items no longer available*
GROUP A36, SUBGROUP 2: Preparation of Eating Disorder Treatment and Management Plans: Consultant Physicians	90262, 90263
GROUP A36, SUBGROUP 3: Review of Eating Disorder Treatment and Management Plans: Consultant Physicians	90268, 90269

\* Services covered by these items can continued to be claimed under items 92162, 92172, 92163 and 92173 (available Australia wide)