# 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.

## 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](http://www.mbsonline.gov.au/). You can also subscribe to future MBS updates by visiting [MBS Online](http://www.mbsonline.gov.au/) 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.

Subscribe to ‘[News for Health Professionals](https://www.humanservices.gov.au/organisations/health-professionals/news/all)’ 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 . 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 . 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 . 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.*

Table . 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 . 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 . 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 | - |
| 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.*

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 | - |

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 |

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**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  |

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 **Specialist Telehealth (introduced from 2011)**

| **MBS Group** | **Items no longer available** |
| --- | --- |
| GROUP A3 – specialist attendances | [99](http://www9.health.gov.au/mbs/search.cfm?q=99&sopt=I) |
| GROUP A4 – consultant physician | [112](http://www9.health.gov.au/mbs/search.cfm?q=112&sopt=I) |
| GROUP A28 – geriatric medicine – consultant physician or specialist | [149](http://www9.health.gov.au/mbs/search.cfm?q=149&sopt=I) |
| GROUP A8 – consultant psychiatrist attendances | [288](http://www9.health.gov.au/mbs/search.cfm?q=288&sopt=I) |
| GROUP A12 – consultant occupational physician attendances | [389](http://www9.health.gov.au/mbs/search.cfm?q=389&sopt=I) |
| GROUP A24, SUBGROUP 1 – pain medicine attendances | [2820](http://www9.health.gov.au/mbs/search.cfm?q=2820&sopt=I) |
| GROUP A24, SUBGROUP 3 – palliative medicine attendances | [3015](http://www9.health.gov.au/mbs/search.cfm?q=3015&sopt=I) |
| GROUP A26 – neurosurgery attendances | [6016](http://www9.health.gov.au/mbs/search.cfm?q=6016&sopt=I) |
| GROUP T1 – miscellaneous therapeutic proceduresSUBGROUP 3 – assisted reproductive services | [13210](http://www9.health.gov.au/mbs/search.cfm?q=13210&sopt=I) |
| GROUP T4 – obstetrics | [16399](http://www9.health.gov.au/mbs/search.cfm?q=16399&sopt=I) |
| GROUP T6 – anaesthesia | [17609](http://www9.health.gov.au/mbs/search.cfm?q=17609&sopt=I) |
| 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, SUBROUP 1At consulting rooms in a telehealth eligible area or at an eligible Aboriginal Medical Service | [2100](http://www9.health.gov.au/mbs/search.cfm?q=2100&sopt=I), [2126](http://www9.health.gov.au/mbs/search.cfm?q=2126&sopt=I), [2143](http://www9.health.gov.au/mbs/search.cfm?q=2143&sopt=I), [2195](http://www9.health.gov.au/mbs/search.cfm?q=2195&sopt=I) |
| GROUP A30, SUBGROUP 1Other than consulting rooms such as a home visit or other institution in a telehealth eligible area | [2122](http://www9.health.gov.au/mbs/search.cfm?q=2122&sopt=I), [2137](http://www9.health.gov.au/mbs/search.cfm?q=2137&sopt=I), [2147](http://www9.health.gov.au/mbs/search.cfm?q=2147&sopt=I), [2199](http://www9.health.gov.au/mbs/search.cfm?q=2199&sopt=I) |
| GROUP A30, SUBGROUP 2At a residential aged care facility | [2125](http://www9.health.gov.au/mbs/search.cfm?q=2125&sopt=I), [2138](http://www9.health.gov.au/mbs/search.cfm?q=2138&sopt=I), [2179](http://www9.health.gov.au/mbs/search.cfm?q=2179&sopt=I), [2220](http://www9.health.gov.au/mbs/search.cfm?q=2220&sopt=I) |
| GROUP A7, SUBGROUP 12Non-Specialist Practitioner Video Conferencing Consultation | 812, 827, 829, 867, 868, 869, 873, 876, 881, 885, 891, 892 |
| GROUP M13Midwifery Services | 82150, 82151, 82152 |
| GROUP M14Nurse 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)*