



## MBS Psychiatry Telehealth Services from 1 January 2022

Last updated: 24 December 2021

- From 1 January 2022, patient access to specialist telehealth services (including those for psychiatry) will be supported by ongoing MBS arrangements.
- The ongoing 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 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 psychiatry (out of hospital) attendances provided either in person (face-to-face) or by video.
- Patients can continue to access psychiatry services by telephone for consultations up to 45 minutes in duration, with a practitioner they have seen before.
- The telehealth item introduced in 2011 to encourage uptake of video telehealth in rural and remote areas and specific settings (50% loading item) will be replaced by the video telehealth items introduced during the pandemic (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.



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

From 1 January 2022, 17 telehealth (video) and 3 telephone MBS items will be available for psychiatry services:

### Group A40:

- 1 videoconference item (92434) to prepare a treatment and management plan for patients under 13 years with autism or another pervasive development disorder
- 1 videoconference item (92435) to prepare a GP management plan
- 1 videoconference item (92436) to review a GP management plan
- 1 videoconference item (92437) for new patient attendances
- 5 videoconference items for psychiatric attendances – (items 91827, 91828, 91829, 91830 and 91831)
- 3 telephone items for psychiatric attendances – (items 91837, 91838, 91839)
- 2 videoconference items (92458 & 92459) for interviews of persons other than the patient in the course of the initial diagnostic evaluation of the patient
- 1 videoconference item (92460) for interviews of persons other than the patient in the course of continuing management of a patient
- 1 videoconference item (92162) for psychiatric services to prepare an eating disorder treatment and management plan
- 1 videoconference item (92172) for psychiatric services to review an eating disorder treatment and management plan
- 3 videoconference items (92455, 92456 & 92457) for group psychotherapy

The tables below provide a list of:

- The 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?

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.

## Can I use the MBS telehealth psychiatry initial attendance item in place of existing item 296?

Yes, from 1 January 2022, this service will continue to be available under video telehealth item 92437. This item mirrors the standard (face to face) item 296 for new patients or patients who have not received a professional attendance from the provider in the preceding 24 months. The temporary COVID-19 arrangements which enabled this service to be provided by telephone will no longer apply from 1 January 2022.



## What items can I claim for telephone attendances from 1 January 2022?

Telephone will continue to be available for psychiatry attendances of up to 45 minutes in duration, where the practitioner has an existing clinical relationship with the patient. The following telephone items for psychiatry attendances will be available:

- Item 91837: Consultation, not more than 15 minutes
- Item 91838: Consultation, 15 to 30 minutes
- Item 91839: Consultation, 30 to 45 minutes

## Will there be a differential rebate for psychiatry attendances (where more than 50 services are provided to a patient in calendar year)?

From 1 January 2022, the current limits of 50 services per patient per calendar year will continue to apply to standard, face-to-face psychiatry attendances (items 300 to 308), with lower rebates applying where more than 50 services are provided to a patient in a calendar year (items 310 to 318).

At present, these service limits do not apply to psychiatry attendances provided by telehealth (video or telephone). This will continue to be the case from 1 January 2022. The Department will work with the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP) and the Medicare Review Advisory Committee (MRAC) to review the current service limits, and ensure a consistent approach across all of the psychiatry attendance items, including services provided by face-to-face, video and telephone.

## Can I use the MBS telehealth items to treat patients who are admitted to a hospital?

No. Admitted patients (whether as part of an episode of hospital treatment or hospital substitute treatment) are not eligible for services under the ongoing telehealth items.

## 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
<b>Psychiatry</b> , prepare an eating disorder treatment and management plan – at least 45 minutes	92162	90262
<b>Psychiatry</b> , 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 telehealth items for psychiatry available from 1 January 2022

These items are for out-of-hospital services.

*Psychiatrist attendances (Group A40)*

#### Consultant Psychiatrist services

Service	Equivalent face to face item	Video item	Telephone item (subsequent attendance)
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	342	92455	-



Service	Equivalent face to face item	Video item	Telephone item (subsequent attendance)
patients or a family group of more than 3 patients, each referred to consultant psychiatrist			
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.



## Attachment B

### MBS telehealth items relevant to psychiatry no longer available from 1 January 2022

#### Specialist COVID-19 Phone Items

Speciality	Items no longer available
Consultant Psychiatrist	91840, 91841, 92474, 92475, 92476, 92477, 92498, 92499, 92500, 92495, 92496, 92497, 92166, 92178

#### Specialist Inpatient COVID-19 Telehealth Items

Speciality	Items no longer available
Consultant Psychiatrist	92461, 92462, 92463, 92464, 92465, 92466, 92501, 92502, 92503, 92504, 92505, 92506

#### Specialist Telehealth (introduced from 2011)

MBS Group	Items no longer available
GROUP A8 – consultant psychiatrist attendances	288

#### 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)

## 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