

In-Depth Patient Assessment for a COVID-19 Vaccine

Last updated: 21 June 2021

PLEASE NOTE: The new Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) items are only available to general practitioners (GPs) and other medical practitioners (OMPs) working in a general practice setting.

Other Medical Practitioner includes specialist medical practitioners and consultant physicians working in a general practice setting in their capacity as an OMP.

Only GPs and OMPS working within practices that have been selected to participate in the Governments' COVID-19 vaccination roll-out can access the new MBS items, with the patient attendance occurring within the selected practice. GPs or OMPs providing services to individuals at a practice that has not been selected to receive the COVID-19 vaccine for administration to patients are not eligible to use the new items or to provide COVID-19 vaccinations.

GPs and suitably qualified health professionals who provide a vaccination to a patient must be appropriately qualified and trained to provide an immunisation to the patient. This includes having completed any mandatory Commonwealth training associated with the delivery of COVID-19 vaccination services.

The Australian Government is committed to offering every person in Australia access to safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines at no cost.

From 18 June 2021, the Government introduced two new MBS items (10660 and 10661) to support GPs and OMPs to provide in-depth clinical assessments of patients aged 50 years regarding patients' individual health risks and benefits associated with receiving a COVID-19 vaccine.

MBS items 10660 and 10661 may only be claimed where a GP or OMP attends to a patient in person for more than 10 minutes, and must be provided in conjunction with a relevant MBS COVID-19 vaccine suitability assessment item (93624, 93625, 93626, 93627, 93634, 93635, 93636, 93637, 93644, 93645, 93646, 93647, 93653, 93654, 93655 and 93656).

Consistent with the other MBS vaccine suitability assessment items, items 10660 and 10661 must be bulk-billed.

Who is eligible?

The items are available to all Medicare eligible patients aged 50 years or over who are seeking to receive a COVID-19 vaccination and who require in-depth medical assessment and advice regarding their individual risks and benefits associated with receiving a vaccine.

These items are available to both patients who are yet to receive a dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, and to patients who have already received a first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.

Billing

The fees for MBS item 10660 and 10661 are equivalent to a Level B consultation undertaken by a GP or OMP.

These services must be bulk-billed and provided in conjunction with an appropriate MBS COVID-19 vaccine suitability assessment item.

Item 10660 must be performed by a general practitioner in conjunction with a patient COVID-19 suitability assessment item 93624, 93625, 93634, 93635, 93644, 93645, 93653 or 93654.

Item 10661 must be performed by an OMP in conjunction with a patient COVID-19 suitability assessment item 93626, 93627, 93636, 93637, 93646, 93647, 93655 or 93656.

Items 10660 and 10661 must be bulk-billed.

Note: Due to time constraints, it has not been possible to amend the legislation that establishes 100% rebates for GP and OMP services. The rebate for these items is therefore paid at 85% of the item fee. The fee amount has been increased so that the Medicare rebate paid for this service is at the same level as the equivalent rebate for a level B consultation undertaken by a GP or OMP.

Item restrictions

In-depth patient assessment items can only be claim once per patient.

The new items cannot be billed with MBS items other than COVID-19 vaccine suitability assessment services.

MBS GP bulk-billing incentive items 10990, 10991 and 10992 cannot be claimed in association with items 10660 and 10661.

MBS flag-fall payment item 90005 for vaccine suitability assessment services provided outside of consulting rooms cannot be claimed in association with items 10660 and 10661.

MBS flag-fall payment item 90005 can be claimed in conjunction with COVID-19 vaccine suitability assessment services (MBS items 93624 to 93656), where the suitability assessment services themselves are co-claimed with items 10660 and 10661.

Where can I find more information?


The full item descriptor(s) and information on other changes to the MBS can be found on the MBS Online website at www.mbsonline.gov.au. You can also subscribe to future MBS updates by visiting [MBS Online](#) and clicking 'Subscribe'.

The Department of Health provides an email service for providers seeking advice on interpretation of the MBS items and rules, the *Health Insurance Act 1973* and associated regulations. If you have a query relating exclusively to interpretation of the Schedule, you should email askMBS@health.gov.au.

In addition, you can subscribe to '[News for Health Professionals](#)' on the Services Australia website to 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 on the Provider Enquiry Line – 13 21 50.

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.