



Terminology update for Medicare Benefit Schedule Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker and Practitioner Services

Last updated: 8 October 2025

- From 1 November 2025, the terminology used for MBS Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health worker and practitioner services will be updated to reflect the primary health care services the professions provide.
- This update will affect a name change to the *Health Insurance (Section 3C General Medical Services – Allied Health Services) Determination 2024*.
- This change will not affect how the MBS items for these services are used.

What are the changes?

From 1 November 2025:

- The determination name, '*Health Insurance (Section 3C General Medical Services – Allied Health Services) Determination 2024*', will be changing to '*Health Insurance (Section 3C General Medical Services – Allied Health and other Primary Health Care Services) Determination 2024*'.
- There will be minor amendments to the terminology used in MBS items for services provided by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers and practitioners. The amendments include:
 - Distinguishing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers and practitioners from 'allied health professionals' in the MBS item descriptors, where applicable.
 - The inclusion of a new term, 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care professionals', for services provided by both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers and practitioners.
 - Updating the name of the service provided by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care professionals for chronic condition management services and follow-up services after a health assessment, from 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health service', to 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing service'.

Why are the changes being made?

Updating the terminology used by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health care professionals will strengthen the identity of these professions so they are appropriately recognised for providing holistic primary health care services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait

Islander people. At present in the legislation, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers and practitioners are categorised as allied health professionals.

What does this mean for providers, referrers and other stakeholders?

There will be no change to the requirements for providers and referrers of these services.

How will these changes affect patients?

There will be no change to patients' Medicare benefits. Patients will have continued access to the current clinically relevant services.

Who was consulted on the changes?

The peak workforce association, the National Association of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners (NAATSIHWP) have championed this change with support from the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, the Australian Indigenous Doctors Association, Indigenous Allied Health Australia and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency.

How will the changes be monitored and reviewed?

It is not anticipated that these changes will be reviewed and monitored as they reflect updated and professional terminology only.

Providers are responsible for ensuring Medicare services claimed using their provider number meet all legislative requirements. All Medicare claiming is subject to compliance checks and providers may be required to submit evidence about the services they bill. More information about the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing's (the department's) compliance program can be found on its website at [Medicare compliance](#).

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](#). You can also subscribe to future MBS updates by visiting '[Subscribe to the MBS](#)' on the MBS Online website.

Providers seeking advice on interpretation of MBS items, explanatory notes and associated legislation can use the department's email advice service by emailing askMBS@health.gov.au.

Private health insurance information on the product tier arrangements is available at www.privatehealth.gov.au. Detailed information on the MBS item listing within clinical categories is available on the [department's website](#). Private health insurance minimum accommodation benefits information, including MBS item accommodation classification, is available in the latest version of the *Private Health Insurance (Benefit Requirements)*

Rules 2011 found on the [Federal Register of Legislation](#). If you have a query in relation to private health insurance, you should email PHI@health.gov.au.

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 Services Australia on the Provider Enquiry Line – 13 21 50.

The data file for software vendors when available can be accessed via the [Downloads](#) page.

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