



MBS Specialist Telehealth Services from 1 January 2022

Non-GP medical specialists and approved dental practitioners

Last updated: 18 February 2022

- From 1 January 2022, access to a range of specialist consultations is being supported by permanent, ongoing MBS telehealth arrangements.
- The permanent arrangements build on the temporary video and telephone items introduced as part of the Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. They also consolidate previous MBS telehealth items introduced in 2002 and 2011 into a single, national MBS telehealth program.
- **As part of the Government's response to the Omicron outbreak, a range of temporary specialist telehealth (telephone and video) items that were due to cease on 31 December 2021 have also been temporarily reinstated until 30 June 2022.**

What are the changes?

From 1 January 2022:

- Patients will continue to be able to access a range of specialist attendances provided either in person (face to face), video or by telephone. Many of the telehealth items introduced in 2020 in response to the pandemic have now been made permanent.
- 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).

From 1 July 2022

- A new prescribed pattern of service will apply to telephone services provided by consultant physicians and GPs (a new '30/20 rule'). This was due to commence on 1 January 2022, but has been deferred until 1 July 2022. The PSR may take into account exceptional circumstances in considering the claiming practices of individual practitioners. Further details about this change will be published on the MBS Online website.



Telehealth items that have been permanently added to the MBS

From 1 January 2022, the following telehealth items have been made permanent under the MBS – see **Attachment A** (the items highlighted in green shading).

Group A40, sub-groups 4-38:

- 3 items for specialist attendances (2 videoconference and 1 telephone)
- 6 items for consultant physician attendances (5 videoconference and 1 telephone)
- 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 telephone)
- 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 telephone)
- 6 items for neurosurgeon attendances (5 videoconference and 1 telephone)
- 1 item for anaesthesia attendances (1 videoconference)
- 3 items for approved dental practitioners (2 videoconference, 1 telephone).

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.

Telehealth items that will be available until 30 June 2022

The following telehealth items were due to cease on 31 December 2021, but have been temporarily reinstated until 30 June 2022:

- 33 initial and complex specialist telephone consultation items – see **Attachment A** (the items highlighted in pink shading):
- 40 specialist inpatient telehealth MBS items – see **Attachment B** (the items highlighted in pink shading)

Telehealth items that are no longer available

A list of the telehealth items that ceased on 31 December 2021 is at **Attachment C**.



What are the conditions for claiming the inpatient telehealth items?

To bill any of the telehealth inpatient items (listed at **Attachment B**), the following general conditions must be met:

- A patient must be admitted to hospital as a private patient;
- The service must be performed by the admitting specialist medical practitioner for the patient; and
- The admitting specialist medical practitioner, at the time the consultation is provided, is:
 - required to isolate because of a State or Territory COVID-19 public health order; or
 - required to be in quarantine because of a State or Territory COVID-19 public health order.

Further information on these items is outlined in MBS Explanatory Note AN.40.7.

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.

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.

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



Service	Continuing	Not continuing
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.

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 – out-of-hospital attendances

Specialist, Consultant Physician, Psychiatrist, Paediatrician, Geriatrician, Public Health Physician, Neurosurgeon and Anaesthetist telehealth attendances.

Telehealth items that have been permanently added to the MBS – green shading	
COVID-19 specialist items for initial, more complex telehealth services temporarily reinstated to 30 June 2022 – pink shading	

Specialist services

Service	Face-to-face items	Video items	Telephone items
Specialist. Initial attendance	104	91822	91832
Specialist. Subsequent attendance	105	91823	91833

Consultant Physician services

Service	Face-to-face items	Video items	Telephone items
Consultant physician. Initial attendance	110	91824	91834
Consultant physician. Subsequent attendance	116	91825	91835
Consultant physician. Minor attendance	119	91826	91836

Consultant Physician services

Service	Face-to-face items	Video items	Telephone items
Consultant physician. Initial assessment, patient with at least 2 morbidities, prepare a treatment and management plan, at least 45 minutes	132	92422	92431
Consultant physician, Subsequent assessment, patient with at least 2 morbidities, review a treatment and management plan, at least 20 minutes	133	92423	92432



Specialist and Consultant Physician services

Service	Face-to-face items	Video items	Telephone items
Specialist or consultant physician early intervention services for children with autism, pervasive developmental disorder, or disability	137	92141	92144

Geriatrician services

Service	Face-to-face items	Video items	Telephone items
Geriatrician, prepare an assessment and management plan, patient at least 65 years, more than 60 minutes	141	92623	92628
Geriatrician, review a management plan, more than 30 minutes	143	92624	92629

Consultant Psychiatrist services

Service	Face-to-face items	Video items	Telephone items
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	91840
Consultant psychiatrist. Consultation, more than 75 minutes	308	91831	91841

Consultant Psychiatrist services

Service	Face-to-face items	Video items	Telephone items
Consultant psychiatrist, prepare a treatment and management plan, patient under 13	289	92434	92474



Service	Face-to-face items	Video items	Telephone items
years with autism or another pervasive developmental disorder, at least 45 minutes			
Consultant psychiatrist, prepare a management plan, more than 45 minutes	291	92435	92475
Consultant psychiatrist, review management plan, 30 to 45 minutes	293	92436	92476
Consultant psychiatrist, attendance, new patient (or has not received attendance in preceding 24 mths), more than 45 minutes	296	92437	92477
Consultant psychiatrist, interview of a person other than patient, in the course of initial diagnostic evaluation of patient, 20 to 45 minutes	348	92458	92498
Consultant psychiatrist, interview of a person other than patient, in the course of initial diagnostic evaluation of patient, 45 minutes or more	350	92459	92499
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	92500

Consultant Psychiatrist services

Service	Face-to-face items	Video items	Telephone items
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	92495
Consultant psychiatrist, group psychotherapy, at least 1 hour, involving family group of 3 patients, each referred to consultant psychiatrist	344	92456	92496
Consultant psychiatrist, group psychotherapy, at least 1 hour, involving family group of 2 patients, each referred to consultant psychiatrist	346	92457	92497



Consultant Psychiatrist services

Service	Face-to-face items	Video items	Telephone items
Consultant psychiatrist, prepare an eating disorder treatment and management plan, more than 45 minutes	90260	92162	92166
Consultant psychiatrist, to review an eating disorder plan, more than 30 minutes	90266	92172	92178

Paediatrician services

Service	Face-to-face items	Video items	Telephone items
Paediatrician early intervention services for children with autism, pervasive developmental disorder, or disability	135	92140	92143
Paediatrician, prepare an eating disorder treatment and management plan, more than 45 minutes	90261	92163	92167
Paediatrician, to review an eating disorder plan, more than 20 minutes	90267	92173	92179

Public Health Physician services

Service	Face-to-face items	Video items	Telephone items
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	92523
Public health physician, level D attendance, at least 40 minutes	413	92516	92524

Neurosurgery attendances

Service	Face-to-face items	Video items	Telephone items
Neurosurgeon, initial attendance	6007	92610	92617



Service	Face-to-face items	Video items	Telephone items
Neurosurgeon, minor attendance	6009	92611	92618
Neurosurgeon, subsequent attendance, 15 to 30 minutes	6011	92612	92619
Neurosurgeon, subsequent attendance, 30 to 45 minutes	6013	92613	92620
Neurosurgeon, subsequent attendance, more than 45 minutes	6015	92614	92621

Anaesthesia Attendances

Service	Face-to-face items	Video items	Telephone items
Anaesthetist, professional attendance, advanced or complex	17615	92701	92712

Approved Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Attendances

Service	Face-to-face items	Video items	Telephone items
Dental practitioner (oral and maxillofacial surgery only), initial attendance	51700	54001	54003
Dental practitioner (oral and maxillofacial surgery only), subsequent attendance	51703	54002	54004

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

Service	Face-to-face items	Video items	Telephone items
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



MBS changes factsheet

Service	Face-to-face items	Video items	Telephone items
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.



MBS specialist telehealth services for hospital inpatient attendances – items available to 30 June 2022

To bill any of the telehealth inpatient items, the following general conditions **must** be met:

- A patient must be admitted to hospital as a private patient;
- The service must be performed by the admitting specialist medical practitioner for the patient; and
- The admitting specialist medical practitioner, at the time the consultation is provided, is:
 - required to isolate because of a State or Territory COVID-19 public health order; or
 - required to be in quarantine because of a State or Territory COVID-19 public health order.

Benefits payable:

- These items attract a Medicare rebate of 85% of the MBS Schedule Fee.
- Private health insurance benefits are not payable for these telehealth attendances.
- Out of pocket costs for the new items will count towards the patient’s Medicare Safety Nets (original and extended).

Further information on these items is outlined in MBS Explanatory Note AN.40.7.

Hospital Inpatient items – 40 items (video and telephone) for when admitting medical practitioner is required to isolate because of COVID-19 public health orders - pink shading

Table 1. Specialist services

Service	Equivalent face-to-face items <i>(consulting room / in hospital)</i>	In-patient video items	In-patient telephone items	MBS Fee In-patient Video and Phone	MBS Rebate (85%) In-patient Video and Phone
Specialist. Initial attendance	104	91846	91848	\$90.35	\$76.80
Specialist. Subsequent attendance	105	91847	91849	\$45.40	\$38.60

Table 2. Consultant Physician services

Service	Equivalent face-to-face items <i>(consulting room / in hospital)</i>	In-patient video items	In-patient telephone items	MBS Fee In-patient Video and Phone	MBS Rebate (85%) In-patient Video and Phone
Consultant physician. Initial attendance	110	92471	92425	\$159.35	\$135.45



MBS changes factsheet

Service	Equivalent face-to-face items <i>(consulting room / in hospital)</i>	In-patient video items	In-patient telephone items	MBS Fee In-patient Video and Phone	MBS Rebate (85%) In-patient Video and Phone
Consultant physician. Subsequent attendance	116	92472	92426	\$79.75	\$67.80
Consultant physician. Minor attendance	119	92473	92427	\$45.40	\$38.60

Table 3. Consultant Psychiatrist services

Service	Equivalent face-to-face items <i>(consulting room / in hospital)</i>	In-patient video items	In-patient telephone items	MBS Fee In-patient Video and Phone	MBS Rebate (85%) In-patient Video and Phone
Consultant psychiatrist, attendance, new patient (or has not received attendance in preceding 24 mths), more than 45 minutes	296 / 297	92466	92506	\$274.95	\$233.75
Consultant psychiatrist. Consultation, not more than 15 minutes	300 / 320	92461	92501	\$45.75	\$38.90
Consultant psychiatrist. Consultation, 15 to 30 minutes	302 / 322	92462	92502	\$91.30	\$77.65
Consultant psychiatrist. Consultation, 30 to 45 minutes	304 / 324	92463	92503	\$140.55	\$119.50
Consultant psychiatrist. Consultation, 45 to 75 minutes	306 / 326	92464	92504	\$194.00	\$164.90
Consultant psychiatrist. Consultation, more than 75 minutes	308 / 328	92465	92505	\$225.10	\$191.35



Table 4. Public Health Physician services

Service	Equivalent face-to-face items (consulting room / in hospital)	In-patient video items	In-patient telephone items	MBS Fee In-patient Video and Phone	MBS Rebate (85%) In-patient Video and Phone
Public health physician, level A attendance	410	92517	92525	\$20.65	\$17.60
Public health physician, level B attendance, less than 20 minutes	411	92518	92526	\$45.15	\$38.40
Public health physician, level C attendance, at least 20 minutes	412	92519	92527	\$87.35	\$74.25
Public health physician, level D attendance, at least 40 minutes	413	92520	92528	\$128.60	\$109.35

Table 5. Neurosurgery services

Service	Equivalent face-to-face items (consulting room / in hospital)	In-patient video items	In-patient telephone items	MBS Fee In-patient Video and Phone	MBS Rebate (85%) In-patient Video and Phone
Neurosurgeon, initial attendance	6007	92615	92625	\$136.85	\$116.35
Neurosurgeon, minor attendance	6009	92616	92626	\$45.40	\$38.60

Table 6. Anaesthesia services

Service	Equivalent face-to-face items (consulting room / in hospital)	In-patient video items	In-patient telephone items	MBS Fee In-patient Video and Phone	MBS Rebate (85%) In-patient Video and Phone
Anaesthetist, professional attendance, advanced or complex	17615	92702	92713	\$90.35	\$76.80



Table 7. Oral and maxillofacial surgical services

Service	Equivalent face-to-face items <i>(consulting room / in hospital)</i>	In-patient video items	In-patient telephone items	MBS Fee In-patient Video and Phone	MBS Rebate (85%) In-patient Video and Phone
Dental practitioner (oral and maxillofacial surgery only), initial attendance	51700	54006	54011	\$89.00	\$75.65
Dental practitioner (oral and maxillofacial surgery only), subsequent attendance	51703	54007	54012	\$44.75	\$38.05



MBS telehealth items no longer available from 1 January 2022

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



MBS Group	Items no longer available
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