



Changes to Primary Care Items from 1 May 2010

It is important that practices familiarise themselves with the changes to the MBS which affect many aspects of Professional Attendances, Attendances by General Practitioners, Professional Attendances at an Institution, Attendances at a Hospital, After Hours Attendances, Acupuncture, Health Assessments, and Chronic Disease Management Items.

A summary of the changes is available at:

http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/mbsprimarycareitems_information_1may2010.htm

Explanatory notes will be available at www.health.gov.au/MBSONline during April 2010.



Table1: Quick Reference Guide (courtesy of Melbourne East DGP)

Item Name / Category	Old Item Numbers	New Item Numbers
Other non-referred attendances out of consulting rooms ▶Brief	4, 13, 19	4
Other non-referred attendances out of consulting rooms ▶Standard	24, 25, 33	24
Other non-referred attendances out of consulting rooms ▶ Long	37, 38, 40	37
Other non-referred attendances out of consulting rooms ▶ Prolonged	47, 48, 50	47
Other non-referred attendances: Urgent attendances ▶ after hours	1, 2, 603	597
Other non-referred attendances: Urgent attendances ▶ unsociable hours	601, 602	599
Health Assessments (these are now time-based)	700, 702, 709, 712, 713, 714, 716, 717, 718, 719	701, 703, 705, 707
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People Health Assessment	704, 706, 708, 710	715
Health assessment provided by a practice nurse or registered Aboriginal health worker (all ages)	711	10986
Chronic disease management – GPMP / TCA reviews	725, 727	732
GP multidisciplinary case conference	734 – 779	735, 739, 743, 747, 750, 758
Other non-referred non-urgent after hours attendances	5003, 5007, 5023, 5026, 5043, 5046, 5063, 5064	5003, 5023, 5043, 5063

Changes to Medicare Health Assessments

From the 1st May 2010, Medicare Australia will introduce changes to the way in which the following health assessments are claimed:

- Healthy Kids Check
- Type 2 Diabetes Risk Evaluation
- 45 – 49 Year Old Health Assessment
- 75+ Health Assessment
- Comprehensive medical assessment for residents of residential aged care facilities
- Intellectual disability Health Assessment
- Refugee Health Assessment

The current MBS items numbers for these assessments will be replaced by four time-based health assessment items, consisting of brief, standard, long and prolonged consultations. A description is provided below:

1. Brief Health Assessment MBS Item 701 ► Rebate \$55.00

A brief health assessment is used to undertake simple health assessments. The health assessment should take less than 30 minutes to complete.

2. Standard Health Assessment MBS Item 703 ► Rebate \$127.80

A standard health assessment is used for straightforward assessments where the patient does not present with complex health issues but may require more attention than can be provided in a brief assessment. The assessment lasts more than 30 minutes but takes less than 45 minutes.

3. Long Health Assessment MBS Item 705 ► Rebate \$176.30

A long health assessment is used for an extensive assessment, where the patient has a range of health issues that require more in-depth consideration, and longer-term strategies for managing the patient's health may be necessary. The assessment lasts more than 45 minutes but less than 60 minutes.

4. Prolonged Health Assessment MBS Item 707 ► Rebate \$249.10

A prolonged health assessment is used for a complex assessment of a patient with significant, long-term health needs that need to be managed through a comprehensive preventive health care plan. The assessment takes 60 minutes or more to complete.

Medical practitioners may select one of the MBS health

assessment items to provide a health assessment service to a member of any of the target groups listed above. The health assessment item that is selected will depend on the time taken to complete the health assessment service. This is determined by the complexity of the patient's presentation and the specific requirements that have been established for each target group eligible for health assessments. Details of the requirements for each target group are provided on the following site:

http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/mbsprimarycareitems_information_1may2010.htm

Changes to GP Management Plans and Team Care Arrangements

Medicare Australia is 'simplifying' the review process for GP Management Plans and Team Care arrangements by merging the two separate review items (MBS Item 725 & MBS Item 727) into one (MBS Item 732):

- Item 725 (Review of GP Management Plans) and Item 727 (Review of Team Care Arrangement)
= Merge into one item
MBS Item 732 ► Rebate \$66.80

Further information on the changes is available from the Commonwealth Department of Health & Ageing website <http://www.health.gov.au/mbsprimarycareitems>

Practice Nurses (PNs) & MBS Changes

PNs can still undertake a Healthy Kids Check on behalf of the GP. Previously, MBS item 711 was billed for this service. From 1 May 2010, practices should use MBS item number 10986 when a PN completes the Healthy Kids Check and the rebate for this will be \$55.00, in line with the Brief Health Assessment provided by a GP.

There are no other changes to MBS item numbers affecting PNs.

SUTHERLAND DIVISION OF GENERAL PRACTICE

Phone: (02) 9545 3533

Fax: (02) 9545 3522

Web: www.shiregps.org.au

CDM Program Officer: Shona Dutton

Immunisation/Mental Health Program Officer: Gillian Minto

Practice Support/Nursing Program Officer: Laura Denegris

