

Fact Sheet

This Fact Sheet must be read in conjunction with the item descriptor and explanatory notes for Items 709 and 711 (as set out in the Medicare Benefits Schedule).

The Healthy Kids Check items 709 and 711 have been introduced for all four year old children who are permanently resident in Australia or who are covered by a Reciprocal Health Care Agreement.

The aim of the Healthy Kids Check is to ensure every four year old child in Australia has a basic health check to see if they are healthy, fit and ready to learn when they start school. The Healthy Kids Check will promote early detection of lifestyle risk factors, delayed development and illness, and introduce guidance for healthy lifestyles and early intervention strategies. The Healthy Kids Check will take place at or around the same time as the four year old immunisation.

The Health Assessment

The health assessment must include each of the following components.

Information collection

The information collection component may be rendered by a nurse or other qualified health professional in accordance with accepted medical practice. Information collection must include taking a patient history (if one does not already exist) or updating an existing record. The patient record must include family and environmental factors, medical and social history, and lifestyle risk factors. Investigations should be undertaken or arranged as clinically indicated in accordance with relevant guidelines.

Assessment

The Healthy Kids Check must include an assessment of the patient's health, based on the patient history, examinations and the results of any investigations. Parents/guardians should also be encouraged to provide relevant information.

Interventions

Where appropriate, arrangements need to be put in place for referrals and follow-up of any problems identified.

Health advice

Health advice and information must be provided to the patient's parent/guardian, utilising the Department's publication **Get Set 4 Life – habits for healthy kids** and other relevant information (such as a parent-held child health record).



Medicare Healthy Kids Check

MBS Items 709 and 711

Immunisation

The Healthy Kids Check is to be delivered in conjunction with the four year old immunisation. The health professional is to gain consent prior to providing the 4 year old immunisation or document evidence that immunisation has previously been given.

Eligible Practitioners

General Practitioner (GP)

The Healthy Kids Check should generally be undertaken by the patient's 'usual doctor', that is, the GP (or a GP in the same practice) who has provided the majority of services to the patient in the past 12 months, and/or is likely to provide the majority of services in the following 12 months.

Responsibilities of the General Practitioner

- The GP is responsible for the health, safety and clinical outcomes of the patient, whether they undertake or supervise the health check.
- If the health check is delegated to a practice nurse on behalf of the general practitioner, the general practitioner must be satisfied that the nurse has the necessary skills, expertise and qualifications to provide the service. The general practitioner must also be satisfied that the practice nurse is receiving the appropriate professional supervision (if the practice nurse is an enrolled nurse, this would include supervision by a registered nurse).
- Should a practice nurse identify any health concerns, the general practitioner must review the patient and arrange referrals and follow-up as required.
- Provide or document evidence that the four year old immunisation has been given.
- Provide and document that a copy of the Department's publication **Get Set 4 Life – habits for healthy kids** has been given.

Practice Nurse (PN)

The Healthy Kids Check can also be undertaken by a practice nurse. The practice nurse is a registered or enrolled nurse who is employed by, or whose services are otherwise retained by, the same practice as the patient's 'usual doctor'.

Responsibilities of the Practice Nurse

- If the practice nurse identifies any health concerns, the patient must be reviewed by the patient's 'usual doctor' who will arrange referrals and follow-up as required.
- Provide or document evidence that the four year old immunisation has been given.
- Provide and document that a copy of the Department's publication **Get Set 4 Life – habits for healthy kids** has been given.

Should a medical practitioner other than the patient's 'usual doctor' or practice nurse undertake the Healthy Kids Check, a copy of the health check record should be forwarded to the patient's 'usual doctor' or practice (subject to the agreement of the patient's parent/guardian).

Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service or State/Territory government health clinic

Where an exemption under subsection 19(2) of the Health Insurance Act 1973 has been granted to an Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service or State/Territory government health clinic, items 709 and 711 can be claimed for services provided by medical practitioners or nurses salaried by or contracted to, the Service or health clinic.

Medicare Rebate

A Medicare rebate is payable for either item 709 or 711 once only for any eligible patient. If a general practitioner or practice nurse is unsure whether a patient has already received a health assessment under items 709 or 711, he/she may call Medicare Australia, with the patient present, on 132 011.

Guidelines and Resources

There are a number of resources available which may be of assistance. Some of these include the LEA Children's Chart for checking eyesight and Lift the Lip for checking teeth and gums.

Further Information

For Medicare claiming and payment queries, call the Medicare Australia provider enquiry line on 132 150.

For more information visit the Department of Health and Ageing's website at www.health.gov.au/epc or phone the Medicare Australia provider enquiry line on 132 150.