FAQs about nurse practitioners
September 2017

1. **Can a nurse practitioner be an enrolled patient's nominated clinician?**

Yes. The nominated clinician of an enrolled patient in a Health Care Home would usually be their general practitioner (GP), and in some cases a nurse practitioner, working with a team of health care professionals constituting the Health Care Home and the broader medical neighbourhood.

The nominated clinician is expected to be aware of the patient’s problems, priorities and wishes, and be responsible for their care coordination. It is expected they have the clinical expertise and accountability to lead the ongoing care of the patient, oversee the delivery of continuous and comprehensive care and provide a link between the patient, their family and carers and the health system more broadly. Nurse practitioners may also be part of the team providing care for this group of patients.

2. **Are services provided by a nurse practitioner to an enrolled patient included in the bundled payment?**

All general practice health care associated with an enrolled patient’s chronic conditions, including that provided by a nurse practitioner employed by or contracting to a Health Care Home, should be funded through the bundled payment and not billed against MBS items. A nurse practitioner working in a Health Care Home can bill against MBS items for routine care provided to an enrolled patient, for services that are not related to the patient's chronic conditions, and for services provided to non-enrolled patients.

Where a nurse practitioner is not employed by or contracting to an enrolled patient’s Health Care Home, and provides services to an enrolled patient, the nurse practitioner can bill against MBS items that apply. This would occur, for example, where a nurse practitioner has a working relationship with a specialist medical practitioner (such as a rheumatologist or geriatrician) and is providing services related to the specialist's area of expertise to a patient who is enrolled in a Health Care Home. In this situation, the primary role of the nurse practitioner is specialist support.

3. **If an enrolled patient attends the Health Care Home for a consultation with a nurse practitioner employed by, or contracting to the Health Care Home, that is unrelated to their chronic condition, can the consultation be billed under the MBS?**

Yes, relevant nurse practitioner MBS items can be claimed for routine care not related to the management of the patient’s chronic conditions.