
Medicare Benefits Schedule Review Taskforce

Taskforce Findings

Cleft Dental Services Working Group

Report

This document outlines the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) Review Taskforce’s recommendations in response to the report from the Cleft Dental Services Working Group (CDSWG).

The Taskforce endorsed twenty-nine recommendations from the Final Report from the CDSWG after recommending minor amendments and submitted them to the Minister for Health for Government consideration.

Number of items reviewed	62
Number of recommendations made	29

The recommendations are intended to encourage best practice, improve patient care and safety, and ensure that MBS services provide value for the patient and the healthcare system through deleting obsolete or low clinical value items; consolidating or splitting items to address potential misuse; modernising item descriptors to reflect best practice; and providing clinical guidance for appropriate item use through explanatory notes.

List of Taskforce Recommendations

Recommendations: General recommendations

Recommendation 1 – Official name of the Scheme and Category 7 of the MBS

The Working Group recommends renaming the Scheme to "Cleft and Craniofacial Anomalies Scheme" and renaming Category 7 of the MBS to "Cleft and Craniofacial Anomalies Services".

Recommendation 2 – Clinical indications for patient eligibility

The Working Group considered the current list of clinical indications for patient eligibility to the Scheme and recommends the list be updated to include osteogenesis imperfecta and auriculo-condylar syndrome.

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The Working Group recommends limiting eligible hereditary conditions where the presence of supernumerary teeth is a major feature to include only cleidocranial dysplasia and Gardner's syndrome, as well as amending Section 5 of eligible conditions to state "developmental or hereditary conditions".

The Working Group also recommends amending the clinical indications to include segmental haemangiomas involving the jaws and associated soft tissue and removing reference to naevi and birthmarks.

Recommendation 3 – Patient eligibility age restriction

The Working Group recommends that the Department consider putting in place a discretionary power to enable initial enrolment to the Scheme of patients above the age of 22 until the age of 25 years old, in defined circumstances. Circumstances in which patients may fall outside of these age restrictions include those in rural or remote locations who delay seeking treatment and immigrant patients. These patients may also include those who move interstate between the age of 22 and 25 years and continue to require treatment.

Recommendation 4 – Registration process of eligible patients

The Working Group recommends that the Department develop a registration system for patients eligible to access the Scheme.

Recommendation 5 – Groupings and dental practitioner access

The Working Group recommends dissolving the current groupings (C1, C2 and C3) of Category 7 of the MBS and specifying in each individual item descriptor appropriate restrictions to specific specialities.

The Working Group reviewed each item within Category 7 and recommended a number of changes to practitioner access. Individual recommendations can be found in Appendix A.

The Working Group recommended amendments to the Dental Practitioner Eligibility Explanatory Note (CN.2.1) relevant to all items within Category 7, to be consistent with recommendations of the Working Group.

The Working Group recommends updating the acronyms used throughout Category 7:

- The current acronyms are as follows;
 - AD = Accredited dental practitioner
 - AO = Accredited orthodontist
 - AOS = Approved oral surgeon
- The proposed acronyms are as follows;
 - RD = Registered dentist (this term includes general dentists and specialist dentists)
 - RO = Registered orthodontist

- ROMS = Registered oral and maxillofacial surgeon
- RPD = Registered paediatric dentist
- RP = Registered prosthodontist

Recommendations: Consultations

Recommendation 6 – Standard attendances

Items 75001, 75004, 75150 and 75153: Consolidate and introduce time-tiered attendance items to replace current standard attendance items. Restrict claiming of these attendance items to orthodontists, oral and maxillofacial surgeons, paediatric dentists and prosthodontists.

Recommendation 7 – Promote the awareness of digital mental health services and other low-intensity treatment options

Item 75800: Amend item descriptor to better describe practitioners eligible for claiming this item.

- o The proposed descriptor is as follows:
 - *ATTENDANCE BY A REGISTERED DENTIST involving consultation, preventive treatment and prophylaxis, of not less than 30 minutes' duration each attendance to a maximum of 3 attendances in any period of 12 months.*

Recommendation 8 – Dental study models

Items 75006 and 75156: Combine these items into one new item and expand dental practitioner access to this item to include all registered dentists.

- o The proposed descriptor is as follows:
 - *PRODUCTION OF DENTAL STUDY MODELS (not being a service associated with a service to which item XX applies) prior to provision of a service to which:
(a) item 75030, XX, 75034, 75039, 75045 or 75051 applies; or
(b) an item in Group T8 or Groups 03 to 09 applies; or
(c) item 52321, 53212 or 75618 applies; or
(d) an item in the series 52330 to 52382, 52600 to 52630, 53400 to 53409 or 53415 to 53429 applies;
in a single course of treatment.*

Recommendation 9 – Study model materials

Explanatory Note (CN.0.10) relevant to item 75006 and 75156: Amend explanatory note to remove restriction to provide study models produced solely from plaster.

- o Current definition:

- *Study models are defined as orthodontic plaster casts of the upper and lower teeth and alveolar processes.*
- Proposed definition:
 - *Study models are defined as orthodontic models of the upper and lower teeth and alveolar processes.*

Recommendations: Orthodontic Services (C1)

Recommendation 10 – Radiography items

Items 75009, 75012 and 75015: Remove the term "orthodontic" from these item descriptors and amend dental practitioner access as appropriate.

- Proposed descriptors are as follows
 - *RADIOGRAPHY orthopantomography (panoramic radiography), including any consultation on the same occasion (RD).*
 - *RADIOGRAPHY ANTEROPOSTERIOR CEPHALOMETRIC RADIOGRAPHY with cephalometric tracings OR LATERAL CEPHALOMETRIC RADIOGRAPHY with cephalometric tracings including any consultation on the same occasion (RO, ROMS).*
 - *RADIOGRAPHY ANTEROPOSTERIOR AND LATERAL CEPHALOMETRIC RADIOGRAPHY, with cephalometric tracings including any consultation on the same occasion (RO, ROMS).*

Items 75018 and 75021: Delete

Item 75023: Expand practitioner access to this item to include all registered dentists.

Recommendation 11 – Cone beam computed tomography

The Working Group recommended a new item be created for cone beam computed tomography (CBCT), limited to requesting by dental specialists only.

- The proposed new item descriptor is as follows:
 - *Dental and temporomandibular joint imaging for diagnosis and management of anomalies of the dentition including impacted teeth, supernumerary teeth, dental implant planning, orthodontics, maxillary alveolar clefts and temporomandibular joint conditions associated with cleft and craniofacial anomalies & conditions: without contrast medium (RO, ROMS, RPD, RP).*
 - The Working Group recommends this item have a Schedule fee equivalent to that of item 57362 (\$113.15).

Recommendation 12 - Presurgical infant maxillary arch repositioning

Items 75024 and 75027: Amend item descriptors to include nasoalveolar moulding and expand dental practitioner access to include paediatric dentists.

- The proposed new descriptors are as follows:

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- *PRESURGICAL INFANT MAXILLARY ARCH REPOSITIONING, including nasoalveolar moulding, supply of appliances and all adjustments of appliances and supervision - WHERE 1 APPLIANCE IS USED (RO, RPD).*
- *PRESURGICAL INFANT MAXILLARY ARCH REPOSITIONING, including nasoalveolar moulding, supply of appliances and all adjustments of appliances and supervision - WHERE 2 APPLIANCES ARE USED (RO, RPD).*

Recommendation 13 – Maxillary arch expansion

Item 75030: No change

Recommendation 14 – Mixed dentition treatment

Items 75033, 75036 and 75037: Combine these three items into one item (75037).

- o The proposed new descriptor is as follows:
 - *Mixed dentition treatment - including incisor alignment (mandibular and/or maxillary) lateral arch expansion, including supply of appliances, all adjustments of appliances, removal of appliances and retention (RO)*
 - The Taskforce recommends Schedule fee equivalent to a weighted average of the existing items.

Item 75034: Amend dental practitioner access to allow claiming by paediatric dentists and orthodontists.

Recommendation 15 – Permanent dentition treatment

Retain the current practitioner restriction to be claimable only by orthodontists.

Items 75039, 75045 and 75048: Amend item descriptor to remove wording to include aligners.

- o The proposed descriptors are as follows:
 - 750395: PERMANENT DENTITION TREATMENT SINGLE ARCH (mandibular or maxillary) TREATMENT (correction and alignment) using orthodontic fixed appliance or aligners, including supply of appliances - initial 3 months of active treatment
 - 75045: PERMANENT DENTITION TREATMENT 2 ARCH (mandibular and maxillary) TREATMENT (correction and alignment) using orthodontic fixed appliance or aligners, including supply of appliances - initial 3 months of active treatment
 - 75048: PERMANENT DENTITION TREATMENT - 2 ARCH (mandibular and maxillary) TREATMENT (correction and alignment) using orthodontic fixed appliance or aligners, including supply of appliances - each subsequent 3 months of active treatment (including all adjustments and maintenance, and removal of the appliances) after the first for a maximum of a further 33 months

Item 75042: Amend item descriptor to be consistent with item 75048 by specifying “subsequent”.

- o The proposed descriptor is as follows:
 - PERMANENT DENTITION TREATMENT - SINGLE ARCH (mandibular or maxillary) TREATMENT (correction and alignment) using *orthodontic fixed appliance or aligners*,

including supply of appliances - each subsequent 3 months of active treatment (including all adjustments and maintenance and removal of the appliances) after the first for a maximum of a further 33 months.

Recommendation 16 – Supply of retainers and supervision of retention

Retain the current practitioner restriction to be claimable only by orthodontists.

Items 75049 and 75050: No change to item descriptors.

Recommendation 17 – Jaw growth guidance

Retain the current practitioner restriction to be claimable only by orthodontists.

Item 75051: No change

Recommendations: Oral and Maxillofacial Services (C2)

Recommendation 18 – Referral requirements

The Working Group recommends amending the item descriptors of items 75200 to 75621 to enable these procedures to be referred by general practitioners or registered dentists.

- Current referral restriction:
 - *"where the patient is referred by an eligible orthodontist"*
- Proposed referral restriction:
 - *"where the patient is referred by a medical practitioner or a registered dentist"*

Recommendation 19 – Simple extractions

Item 75200, 75203 and 75206: Amend item descriptor to enable referral by medical practitioners and registered dentists.

- The proposed item descriptors are as follows:
 - *Removal of tooth or tooth fragment (other than treatment to which item 75400, XX or XX applies), if the patient is referred by a medical practitioner or a registered dentist (RD).*
 - *REMOVAL OF TOOTH OR TOOTH FRAGMENT under general anaesthesia, if the patient is referred by a medical practitioner or a registered dentist (RD)*
 - *Removal of each additional tooth or tooth fragment at the same attendance at which a service to which item 75200 or 75203 applies is rendered, if the patient is referred by a medical practitioner or a registered dentist (RD).*

Recommendation 20 – Surgical extractions

Item 75400: Amend item descriptor to enable referral by medical practitioners and registered dentists and enable claiming by registered dentists.

- The proposed item descriptor is as follows:
 - *Surgical removal of erupted tooth, if the patient is referred by a medical practitioner or a registered dentist (RD).*

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Items 75403 and 75412: Combine into one item, amend item descriptor to enable referral by medical practitioners and registered dentists and enable claiming by registered dentists.

- The proposed item descriptor is as follows:
 - *Surgical removal of tooth or tooth fragment requiring incision of soft tissue only, if the patient is referred by a medical practitioner or a registered dentist (RD).*
 - The Working Group recommends a weighted average Schedule fee.

Items 75406, 75409 and 75415: Combine into one item and amend item descriptor to enable referral by medical practitioners and registered dentists.

- The proposed item descriptor is as follows:
 - *Surgical removal of tooth or tooth fragment requiring removal of bone, if the patient is referred by a medical practitioner or a registered dentist (ROMS).*
 - The Working Group recommends a Schedule fee equivalent to item 75409 (\$244.25).

Recommendation 21 – Surgical procedures for unerupted tooth and transplantation of tooth bud

Item 75600: Amend item descriptor by removing "stimulation" and enable referral by medical practitioners and registered dentists, as well as enabling claiming by registered dentists.

- The proposed item descriptor is as follows:
 - *Surgical exposure and packing of unerupted tooth, if the patient is referred by a medical practitioner or a registered dentist (ROMS & RPD).*

Item 75603: Amend item descriptor to include use of modern technology for placement of a temporary anchorage device (TAD), as well as enabling referral by medical practitioners and registered dentists and claiming by orthodontists, oral and maxillofacial surgeons and paediatric dentists.

- The proposed item descriptor is as follows:
 - *Surgical exposure of unerupted tooth for the purpose of fitting a traction device or placement of a temporary anchorage device, if the patient is referred by a medical practitioner or a registered dentist (RO, ROMS, RPD).*

Items 75606 and 75609: Amend item descriptors to enable referral by medical practitioners and registered dentists.

- The proposed item descriptors are as follows:
 - *Surgical repositioning of unerupted tooth, if the patient is referred by a medical practitioner or a registered dentist (ROMS).*
 - *Transplantation of tooth bud, if the patient is referred by a medical practitioner or a registered dentist (ROMS).*

Recommendation 22 – Other surgical procedures

Item 75612 and 75615: Combine into one item and amend item descriptor to enable referral by medical practitioners and registered dentists.

- The proposed descriptor is as follows:
 - *Surgical procedure for intraoral implantation of an osseointegrated fixture and placement of transmucosal abutments, if the patient is referred by a medical practitioner or a registered dentist (ROMS).*

Item 75618: Amend the descriptor to replace "provision" with "fabrication" and enabling referral by medical practitioners and registered dentists. Amend dental practitioner access to include oral and maxillofacial surgeons, orthodontists and prosthodontists.

- The proposed descriptor is as follows:
 - *Fabrication and fitting of a bite rising appliance or dental splint for the management of temporomandibular joint dysfunction syndrome, if the patient is referred by a medical practitioner or a registered dentist (ROMS, RO & RP).*

Item 75621: Amend item descriptor to replace "provision" with "fabrication", "template" with "splint or guide" and include "implant treatment". Specify use of this item in association with osseointegrated implant (currently items 75612 and 75615), as well as enabling referral by medical practitioners and registered dentists and amending dental practitioner access to include oral and maxillofacial surgeons, orthodontists and prosthodontists.

- The proposed descriptor is as follows:
 - *The fabrication and fitting of a surgical splint or guide in conjunction with orthognathic surgical procedures and implant treatment in association with: (a) an item in the series: (i) 45720 to 45754; or (ii) 52342 to 52375; or (b) item 52380 or 52382; or (c) XXXX; if the patient is referred by a medical practitioner or a registered dentist (ROMS, RO and RP).*

Recommendations: General and Prosthodontic Services (C3)

Recommendation 23 – Production of individual specialized dental products

The Working Group recommends replacing the word “provision” with “fabrication” when referring to the individualised production of specialised dental products (specifically items 75618, 75621, 75803, 75806, 75809, 75812, 75815, 75818, 75821, 75824, 75827, 75830, 75833, 75836).

Recommendation 24 – Acrylic base dentures

Items 75803, 75806, 75809 and 75812: Combine into one item and amend item descriptor to replace "provision" with "fabrication".

- The proposed item descriptor is as follows:
 - *Fabrication and fitting of an acrylic base partial denture, including retainers, 1 to 4 teeth (RD).*

Item 75815: Amend item descriptor to replace "provision" with "fabrication".

- The proposed item descriptor is as follows:
 - *Fabrication and fitting of an acrylic base partial denture, including retainers, 5 to 9 teeth (RD).*

Item 75818: Amend item descriptor to replace "provision" with "fabrication" and enable claiming for complete denture/overdenture.

- The proposed item descriptor is as follows:
 - *Fabrication and fitting of acrylic base partial denture or complete denture/overdenture, 10 to 12 teeth (RD).*

Recommendation 25 – Metal framework dentures

Item 75821, 75824, 75827 and 75830: Combine into one item and amend item descriptor to replace "provision" with "fabrication", replace "cast metal base (cobalt chromium alloy)" with "metal framework" and "casting and retainers" with "all components".

- The proposed descriptor is as follows:
 - *Fabrication and fitting of metal framework partial denture, including all components, 1 to 4 teeth (RD).*

Item 75833: Amend item descriptor to replace "provision" with "fabrication", replace "cast metal base (cobalt chromium alloy)" with "metal framework" and "casting and retainers" with "all components".

- The proposed descriptor is as follows:
 - *Fabrication and fitting of metal framework partial denture including all components, 5 to 9 teeth (RD).*

Item 75836: Amend item descriptor to replace "provision" with "fabrication", replace "cast metal base (cobalt chromium alloy)" with "metal framework" and "casting and retainers" with "all components" and enable claiming for complete denture/overdenture.

- The proposed descriptor is as follows:
 - *Fabrication and fitting of metal framework partial denture or complete denture/overdenture, including all components, 10 to 12 teeth (RD).*

Recommendation 26 – Provision and fitting of retainers

Item 75839: Delete

Recommendation 27 – Miscellaneous denture procedures

Item 75842, 75845, 75848 and 75854: Amend the descriptors to remove "partial".

- The proposed descriptors are as follows:
 - *Adjustment of denture not being a service associated with a service to which item XX, 75815, 75818, XX, 75833 or 75836 applies (RD).*
 - *Relining of denture by laboratory process and associated fitting (RD).*
 - *Remodelling and fitting of denture of more than 4 teeth (RD).*
 - *Addition of a tooth or teeth to a denture to replace extracted tooth or teeth, including taking of necessary impression (RD).*

Item 75851: Amend the descriptor to replace "cast metal base" with "metal framework", remove "partial" and the specification of one or more points

- The proposed item descriptor is as follows:
 - *Repair to metal framework of denture (RD).*

Recommendation 28 – Fabrication and fitting of prostheses

Create a new item to describe fabrication and fitting of extraoral prosthesis, limiting access to prosthodontists.

- The proposed descriptor is as follows:
 - *Fabrication and fitting of extraoral prosthesis (RP).*
 - The Working Group recommends a schedule fee determined by negotiation.

Create a new item to describe fabrication and fitting of intraoral obturator, limiting access to prosthodontists.

- The proposed descriptor is as follows:
 - *Fabrication and fitting of intraoral obturator (RP).*
 - The Working Group recommends a Schedule fee that aligns with Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Dental Services Scheme item S774, obturator (fee by negotiation), noting the fee should be higher than that for metal partial denture as the technique is sensitive and time-consuming (32).

Recommendation 29 – Prosthodontic implant procedures

Create a new item to describe placement of an abutment on an implant, limiting access to prosthodontists.

- The proposed item descriptor is as follows:
 - *Placement of an abutment on an implant (per implant) (RP).*
 - The Working Group recommends a schedule fee that aligns with DVA Dental Services Scheme item S661 (fee by negotiation).

Create a new item to describe the placement of a veneer, limiting access to prosthodontists and paediatric dentists.

- The proposed item descriptor is as follows:
 - *Placement of a veneer on a natural tooth or teeth either directly or indirectly (RP or RPD).*
 - The Working Group recommends a schedule fee that aligns with DVA Dental Services Scheme item S526 for a composite veneer and S556 for a ceramic veneer (fee by negotiation).

Create a new item to describe fabrication and fitting of an implant prostheses, limiting access to prosthodontists.

- The proposed item descriptor is as follows:

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- *Fabrication and fitting of an implant retained bar over-denture or implant supported fixed dental prosthesis (FDP) or two implant over-denture (RP).*
- The Working Group recommends a schedule fee that aligns with DVA Dental Services Scheme items (fee by negotiation):
 - S661, S664 and S665, or S667 for implant retained bar overdenture.
 - S661 per each implant and S666 for implant supported FDP.
 - S661x2, S735x2 and S665x1 for two implant over-denture.

Create a new item to describe placement of resin bonded bridge, including pontics, limiting access to prosthodontists and paediatric dentists.

- The proposed item descriptor is as follows:
 - *Placement of a resin bonded bridge using one retainer, including pontics (RP or RPD).*
 - The Working Group recommends a schedule fee that aligns with DVA Dental Services Scheme items S643 and S649, with additional retainers at no fee (fee by negotiation).

Create a new item to describe placement of a conventional bridge, including pontics, limiting access to prosthodontists and paediatric dentists.

- The proposed item descriptor is as follows:
 - *Placement of a conventional bridge, including pontics (RP or RPD).*
 - The Working Group recommends a schedule fee that aligns with DVA Dental Services Scheme items S615 per number of tooth abutments, S643 per number of pontics and S664 per number off semi-fixed attachments (fee by negotiation).