**Changes to MBS Specialist Telehealth from 1 January 2022**

**CHANGES SUBJECT TO THE PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION**

## **Non-GP medical specialists and approved dental practitioners**

## Ongoing Telehealth Arrangements

From 1 January 2022, patient access to specialist telehealth services will be supported by ongoing MBS arrangements.

These arrangements build on the temporary telehealth items introduced as part of the Government’s response to the COVID‑19 pandemic, including continued access to video telehealth services for a range of consultation or attendance items that can also be provided in person. MBS rebates for specialist attendances provided by telephone will be available for less complex or shorter subsequent attendances.

The ongoing arrangements also consolidate telehealth items into a single, national MBS telehealth program. As a result, from 1 January 2022, telehealth items introduced in 2002 and 2011 to encourage uptake of video technology in specific locations, service settings and specialties will no longer be available.

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.

A new compliance rule will be introduced which will see any consultant physician who provides 30 or more MBS-rebated telephone attendances on each of 20 or more days in a 12 month period referred to the Professional Services Review. This ‘prescribed pattern of service’ rule will also apply to GPs.

## From 1 January 2022:

* Patients will continue to be able to access a range of specialist (out of hospital) attendances provided either in person (face to face) or by video.
* Patients can continue to access specialist services by telephone for less complex or shorter subsequent attendances, with a practitioner they have seen before.
* 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 (available Australia wide).
* The patient-end support items associated with the 2011 telehealth program 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, 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).
* The inpatient telehealth items introduced in September 2021 as a temporary measure during the COVID-19 lockdowns will no longer be available.
* A new prescribed pattern of service will apply to telephone services provided by consultant physicians and GPs (a new ‘30/20 rule’).

# What MBS items are changing?

* Table 1 provides a list of the specialist telehealth items that will apply from 1 January 2022. The existing telephone items that will no longer apply from 1 January 2022 are also shown (marked in strikeout for information).
* Table 2 provides a list of the other telehealth items that will be replaced by the ongoing telehealth arrangements and will no longer be available from 1 January 2022.

## Further Information

Further information on these changes, including the updated MBS item descriptors, will be published on factsheets page of the MBS Online website.

## Table 1 - MBS specialist telehealth items available from 1 January 2022

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Telehealth items continuing from 1 January 2022 |  |
| Telephone items not available from 1 January 2022 | ~~Marked in strikeout~~ |

**Specialist services**

| **Service** | **Equivalent****face to face item** | **Video item** | **Telephone item** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Specialist. Initial attendance | 104 | 91822 | ~~91832~~ |
| Specialist. Subsequent attendance | 105 | 91823 | 91833 |

*Specialist telehealth services (91822, 91823 and 91833) can be billed by all specialities that can currently bill MBS items 104 and 105 or equivalent MBS items. This includes sports and exercise medicine and occupational and environmental health medicine specialists.*

**Consultant Physician services**

| **Service** | **Equivalent****face to face item** | **Video item** | **Telephone item** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Consultant physician. Initial attendance | 110 | 91824\* | ~~91834~~ |
| Consultant physician. Subsequent attendance | 116 | 91825\* | ~~91835~~ |
| Consultant physician. Minor attendance | 119 | 91826\* | 91836\* |
| 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~~ |

*\* Consultant physician telehealth services (91824, 91825, 91826 and 91836) can be billed by all specialities that can currently bill MBS items 110, 116 and 119 or equivalent MBS items. This includes pain and palliative medicine, sexual health medicine and addiction medicine.*

*\*\* Consultant physician telehealth services to prepare and review a management plan (92422 and 92423) can be billed by all physicians that can currently bill MBS items 132 and 133 or equivalent MBS items. This includes sexual health medicine, addiction medicine and paediatricians.*

**Specialist and Consultant Physician services**

| **Service** | **Equivalent****face to face item** | **Video item** | **Telephone item** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Specialist or consultant physician early intervention services for children with autism, pervasive developmental disorder, or disability | 137 | 92141 | ~~92144~~ |

*Specialists and consultant physician services for early intervention for children with pervasive developmental disorder (92141) can be billed by specialists and consultant physicians that are able to MBS item 137.*

**Geriatrician services**

| **Service** | **Equivalent****face to face item** | **Video item** | **Telephone item** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 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** | **Equivalent****face to face item** | **Video item** | **Telephone item** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 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, prepare a treatment and management plan, patient under 13 years with autism or another pervasive developmental disorder, at least 45 minutes | 289 | 92434 | ~~92474~~ |
| 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 months), 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, 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, 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~~ |

*\* Minor changes will be made to these items as they will not be able to be billed for a new patient.*

**Paediatrician services**

| **Service** | **Equivalent****face to face item** | **Video item** | **Telephone item** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 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 30 minutes | 90267 | 92173 | ~~92179~~ |

**Public Health Physician services**

| **Service** | **Equivalent****face to face item** | **Video item** | **Telephone item** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 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** | **Equivalent****face to face item** | **Video item** | **Telephone item** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Neurosurgeon, initial attendance | 6007 | 92610 | ~~92617~~ |
| 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** | **Equivalent****face to face item** | **Video item** | **Telephone item** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Anaesthetist, professional attendance, advanced or complex | 17615 | 92701 | ~~92712~~ |

**Approved Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Attendances**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Service** | **Equivalent****face to face item** | **Video item** | **Telephone item** |
| 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** | **Equivalent****face to face item** | **Video item** | **Telephone item** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 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 |
| 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.*

# Table 2 - MBS telehealth items no longer available from 1 January 2022

Specialist Inpatient COVID-19 Telehealth Items

| Specialty | Items no longer available |
| --- | --- |
| Specialists | 91846, 91847, 91848, 91849 |
| Consultant Physician | 92471, 92472, 92473, 92425, 92426, 92427 |
| Consultant Psychiatrist | 92461, 92462, 92463, 92464, 92465, 92466, 92501, 92502, 92503, 92504, 92505, 92506 |
| Public health Physician | 92517, 92518, 92519, 92520, 92525, 92526, 92527, 92528 |
| Neurosurgery | 92615, 92616, 92625, 92626 |
| Anaesthesia | 92702, 92713 |
| Approved dental practitioner | 54006, 54007, 54011, 54012 |

Specialist Telehealth (introduced from 2011)

| MBS Group | Items no longer available |
| --- | --- |
| GROUP A3 – specialist attendances | [99](http://www9.health.gov.au/mbs/search.cfm?q=99&sopt=I) |
| GROUP A4 – consultant physician | [112](http://www9.health.gov.au/mbs/search.cfm?q=112&sopt=I) |
| GROUP A28 – geriatric medicine – consultant physician or specialist | [149](http://www9.health.gov.au/mbs/search.cfm?q=149&sopt=I) |
| GROUP A8 – consultant psychiatrist attendances | [288](http://www9.health.gov.au/mbs/search.cfm?q=288&sopt=I) |
| GROUP A12 – consultant occupational physician attendances | [389](http://www9.health.gov.au/mbs/search.cfm?q=389&sopt=I) |
| GROUP A24, SUBGROUP 1 – pain medicine attendances | [2820](http://www9.health.gov.au/mbs/search.cfm?q=2820&sopt=I) |
| GROUP A24, SUBGROUP 3 – palliative medicine attendances | [3015](http://www9.health.gov.au/mbs/search.cfm?q=3015&sopt=I) |
| GROUP A26 – neurosurgery attendances | [6016](http://www9.health.gov.au/mbs/search.cfm?q=6016&sopt=I) |
| GROUP T1 – miscellaneous therapeutic proceduresSUBGROUP 3 – assisted reproductive services | [13210](http://www9.health.gov.au/mbs/search.cfm?q=13210&sopt=I) |
| GROUP T4 – obstetrics | [16399](http://www9.health.gov.au/mbs/search.cfm?q=16399&sopt=I) |
| GROUP T6 – anaesthesia | [17609](http://www9.health.gov.au/mbs/search.cfm?q=17609&sopt=I) |
| 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 |
| GROUP A24, SUBGROUP 3 – palliative medicine attendances | 3003 |
| GROUP A26 – neurosurgery attendances | 6004 |
| 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, SUBROUP 1At consulting rooms in a telehealth eligible area or at an eligible Aboriginal Medical Service | [2100](http://www9.health.gov.au/mbs/search.cfm?q=2100&sopt=I), [2126](http://www9.health.gov.au/mbs/search.cfm?q=2126&sopt=I), [2143](http://www9.health.gov.au/mbs/search.cfm?q=2143&sopt=I), [2195](http://www9.health.gov.au/mbs/search.cfm?q=2195&sopt=I) |
| GROUP A30, SUBGROUP 1Other than consulting rooms such as a home visit or other institution in a telehealth eligible area | [2122](http://www9.health.gov.au/mbs/search.cfm?q=2122&sopt=I), [2137](http://www9.health.gov.au/mbs/search.cfm?q=2137&sopt=I), [2147](http://www9.health.gov.au/mbs/search.cfm?q=2147&sopt=I), [2199](http://www9.health.gov.au/mbs/search.cfm?q=2199&sopt=I) |
| GROUP A30, SUBGROUP 2At a residential aged care facility | [2125](http://www9.health.gov.au/mbs/search.cfm?q=2125&sopt=I), [2138](http://www9.health.gov.au/mbs/search.cfm?q=2138&sopt=I), [2179](http://www9.health.gov.au/mbs/search.cfm?q=2179&sopt=I), [2220](http://www9.health.gov.au/mbs/search.cfm?q=2220&sopt=I) |
| GROUP A7, SUBGROUP 12Non-Specialist Practitioner Video Conferencing Consultation | 812, 827, 829, 867, 868, 869, 873, 876, 881, 885, 891, 892 |
| GROUP M13Midwifery Services | 82150, 82151, 82152 |
| GROUP M14Nurse 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 continue to be claimed under items 92162, 92172, 92163 and 92173 (available Australia wide).*