



# 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	<del>Marked in strikeout</del>

### Specialist services

Service	Equivalent face to face item	Video item	Telephone item
Specialist. Initial attendance	104	91822	<del>91832</del>
Specialist. Subsequent attendance	105	91823	<del>91833</del>

*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*	<del>91834</del>
Consultant physician. Subsequent attendance	116	91825*	<del>91835</del>
Consultant physician. Minor attendance	119	91826*	<del>91836*</del>
Consultant physician. Initial assessment, patient with at least 2 morbidities, prepare a treatment and management plan, at least 45 minutes	132	92422**	<del>92431</del>
Consultant physician, Subsequent assessment, patient with at least 2 morbidities, review a treatment and management plan, at least 20 minutes	133	92423**	<del>92432</del>

*\* 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 bill 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	296	92437	92477

Service	Equivalent face to face item	Video item	Telephone item
in preceding 24 months), more than 45 minutes			
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

Service	Equivalent face to face item	Video item	Telephone item
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
GROUP A4 – consultant physician	112
GROUP A28 – geriatric medicine – consultant physician or specialist	149
GROUP A8 – consultant psychiatrist attendances	288
GROUP A12 – consultant occupational physician attendances	389
GROUP A24, SUBGROUP 1 – pain medicine attendances	2820
GROUP A24, SUBGROUP 3 – palliative medicine attendances	3015
GROUP A26 – neurosurgery attendances	6016
GROUP T1 – miscellaneous therapeutic procedures SUBGROUP 3 – assisted reproductive services	13210
GROUP T4 – obstetrics	16399
GROUP T6 – anaesthesia	17609
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 1 At consulting rooms in a telehealth eligible area or at an eligible Aboriginal Medical Service	2100, 2126, 2143, 2195
GROUP A30, SUBGROUP 1 Other than consulting rooms such as a home visit or other institution in a telehealth eligible area	2122, 2137, 2147, 2199
GROUP A30, SUBGROUP 2 At a residential aged care facility	2125, 2138, 2179, 2220
GROUP A7, SUBGROUP 12 Non-Specialist Practitioner Video Conferencing Consultation	812, 827, 829, 867, 868, 869, 873, 876, 881, 885, 891, 892
GROUP M13 Midwifery Services	82150, 82151, 82152
GROUP M14 Nurse 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).*