

## **TELEHEALTH REBATE ISSUES FOR PHYSICIANS**

### **- Frequently asked questions**

The Commonwealth Department of Health has issued a number of new MBS items for Telehealth. As at 20 April, the requirement that these items apply only with bulk billing has been removed.

See attachment for details of the items for specialists and consultant physicians.

Following are some answers to frequently asked questions to assist you in your practice.

- 1. Do I have had to have seen the patient face to face within the previous 12 months?**  
NO, this restriction has been removed. You just need a referral to a named medical specialist from another medical practitioner, including a medical registrar.
- 2. Is an ED or Ward registrar referral OK?**  
YES, provided it is to a named specialist.
- 3. Are people who were previously going to an Outpatient Clinic OK to telehealth?**  
YES, if they have a referral to a named specialist.
- 4. Do I have to bulk bill?**  
NO, this requirement has been removed from 20 April, 2020.
- 5. Does it have to be a videoconference?**  
NO, telephone is OK but it needs to meet the requirements of a “consult”. Please note there are different item numbers for videoconference and telephone conference (see table below).

21 April, 2020

## SPECIALIST, CONSULTANT PHYSICIAN ATTENDANCES for COVID-19

These services are for non-admitted patients

Service	Existing Items <i>face to face</i>	COVID-19 Telehealth items <i>video- conference</i>	COVID-19 Telephone items – <i>for when video- conferencing is not available</i>
Specialist. Initial attendance	104	91822	91832
Specialist. Subsequent attendance	105	91823	91833
Consultant physician. Initial attendance	110	91824	91834
Consultant physician. Subsequent attendance	116	91825	91835
Consultant physician. Minor attendance	119	91826	91836
Consultant physician. Treatment and management plan - Initial assessment – at least 2 morbidities - at least 45 minutes duration	132	92422	92431
Consultant physician. Treatment and management plan - Review – at least 2 morbidities - at least 20 minutes duration	133	92423	92432
Paediatrics early intervention services for children with autism, pervasive developmental disorder or disability	135	92140	92143
Specialist or consultant physician early intervention services for children with autism, pervasive developmental disorder or disability	137	92141	92144
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 20 minutes	90267	92173	92179

Source: MBS Online

<http://www.mbsonline.gov.au/internet/mbsonline/publishing.nsf/Content/news-2020-03-29-latest-news-March>