

Fact Sheet

MBS Items for Specialist Telehealth Consultations

Telehealth MBS items are available for telehealth consultations provided by specialists and consultant physicians.

To be eligible for these telehealth items, the patient must be in a regional or remote area (ASGC remoteness areas RA2 or above) and be 15kms away from the specialist. To check ASGC classifications for locations around Australia and to determine if patients are eligible, physicians can visit www.doctorconnect.gov.au. Residents of residential aged care facilities and patients at Aboriginal Medical Services are also eligible, including those in metropolitan areas.

Telehealth consultations can be conducted with a general practitioner, nurse practitioner, practice nurse or Aboriginal Health Worker or other specialist supporting the patient. These are called 'supported consultations' and MBS items are available for the medical practitioner at the patient end. Specialists can conduct 'unsupported consultations' with patients, by connecting with patients directly via videoconference, and still claim the specialist end MBS items.

The Telehealth Specialist MBS items are:

- Item 99 Specialist Attendances**
- Professional attendance on a patient by a specialist practising in his or her specialty if:
- (a) the attendance is by video conference; and
 - (b) the attendance is for a service:
 - (i) provided with item 104 lasting more than 10 minutes; or
 - (ii) provided with item 105; and
 - (c) the patient is not an admitted patient; and
 - (d) the patient:
 - (i) is located both:
 - (A) within a telehealth eligible area; and
 - (B) at the time of the attendance-at least 15 kms by road from the specialist; or
 - (ii) is a care recipient in a residential care service; or
 - (iii) is a patient of:
 - (A) an Aboriginal Medical Service; or
 - (B) an Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service;
- for which a direction made under subsection 19 (2) of the Act applies.
Derived Fee: 50% of the fee for item 104 or 105. Benefit: 85% of derived fee.
- Item 112 Consultant Physician**
- Professional attendance on a patient by a consultant physician practising in his or her specialty if:
- (a) the attendance is by video conference; and
 - (b) the attendance is for a service:
 - (i) provided with item 110 lasting more than 10 minutes; or
 - (ii) provided with item 116, 119, 132 or 133; and
 - (c) the patient is not an admitted patient; and
 - (d) the patient:
 - (i) is located both:
 - (A) within a telehealth eligible area; and
 - (B) at the time of the attendance-at least 15 kms by road from the physician; or
 - (ii) is a care recipient in a residential care service; or
 - (iii) is a patient of:

(A) an Aboriginal Medical Service; or
(B) an Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service;
for which a direction made under subsection 19 (2) of the Act applies.
Derived fee: 50% of the fee for the associated item. Benefit: 85% of derived fee.

Item 149 Geriatric Medicine- Consultant Physicians or Specialist
Professional attendance on a patient by a consultant physician or specialist practising in his or her specialty of geriatric medicine if:
(a) the attendance is by video conference; and
(b) item 141 or 143 applies to the attendance; and
(c) the patient is not an admitted patient; and
(d) the patient:
(i) is located both:
(A) within a telehealth eligible area; and
(B) at the time of the attendance-at least 15 kms by road from the physician or specialist; or
(ii) is a care recipient in a residential care service; or
(iii) is a patient of:
(A) an Aboriginal Medical Service; or
(B) an Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service;
for which a direction made under subsection 19 (2) of the Act applies.
Derived Fee: 50% of the fee for 141 or 143. Benefit: 85% of derived fee.

Item 389 **Consultation Occupational Physician Attendances**
Professional attendance by a consultant occupational physician practising in his or her specialty of occupational medicine:
(a) by video conference; and
(b) the attendance is for a service:
(i) provided with item 385 lasting more than 10 minutes; or
(ii) provided with item 386; and
(c) the patient is not an admitted patient; and
(d) the patient:
(i) is located both:
(A) within a telehealth eligible area; and
(B) at the time of the attendance-at least 15 kms by road from the physician; or
(ii) is a care recipient in a residential care service; or
(iii) is a patient of:
(A) an Aboriginal Medical Service; or
(B) an Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service;
for which a direction made under subsection 19 (2) of the Act applies
Derived Fee: 50% of the fee for the associated item. Benefit: 85% of derived fee.

Item 3015 **Palliative Medicine Attendances**
Professional attendance on a patient by a specialist or consultant physician practising in his or her specialty of palliative medicine if:
(a) the attendance is by video conference; and
(b) the attendance is for a service:
(i) provided with item 3005 lasting more than 10 minutes; or
(ii) provided with item 3010 or 3014; and
(c) the patient is not an admitted patient; and
(d) the patient:
(i) is located both:
(A) within a telehealth eligible area; and
(B) at the time of the attendance-at least 15 kms by road from the specialist or physician; or

- (ii) is a care recipient in a residential care service; or
 - (iii) is a patient of:
 - (A) an Aboriginal Medical Service; or
 - (A) an Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service;for which a direction made under subsection 19 (2) of the Act applies
- Derived Fee: 50% of the fee for item 3005, 3010 or 3014. Benefit: 85% of derived fee.

Source: www.mbsonline.gov.au

Physicians should note that if they are consulting with another specialist or subspecialist, the physician located with the patient should claim the MBS items for patient end consultations, which are usually claimed by general practitioners. The remote specialist or subspecialist can claim the specialist end items as normal. The patient end telehealth consultation numbers for telehealth consultations are:

- 2100, 2126, 2143, 2195 for consultations conducted from consulting rooms within a telehealth eligible area
- 2111, 2137, 2147, 2199 for consultations conducted from locations other than consultation rooms in a telehealth eligible area
- 2125, 2138, 2179, 2220 for consultations conducted from a residential aged care facility.

MBS items 113, 114, 384, 3003 can also be claimed for initial specialist and consultant physician consultations of less than 10 minutes duration. Unlike the items above, these short consultation items are stand-alone items and do not need to be lodged with a derived fee item number.

More information on MBS items can be found on the MBS website, www.mbsonline.gov.au.