

**THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGEING**

**MEDICARE BENEFITS SCHEDULE
ALLIED HEALTH SERVICES**

1 JULY 2013

At the time of printing, the relevant legislation giving authority for the changes included in this edition of the book may still be subject to the usual Parliamentary scrutiny. This book is not a legal document, and, in cases of discrepancy, the legislation will be the source document for payment of Medicare benefits.

Online ISBN: 978-1-74241-881-0
Publications approval number: 10060

Copyright Statement:

Internet sites

© Commonwealth of Australia 2013

This work is copyright. You may download, display, print and reproduce the whole or part of this work in unaltered form for your own personal use or, if you are part of an organisation, for internal use within your organisation, but only if you or your organisation do not use the reproduction for any commercial purpose and retain this copyright notice and all disclaimer notices as part of that reproduction. Apart from rights to use as permitted by the *Copyright Act 1968* or allowed by this copyright notice, all other rights are reserved and you are not allowed to reproduce the whole or any part of this work in any way (electronic or otherwise) without first being given the specific written permission from the Commonwealth to do so. Requests and inquiries concerning reproduction and rights are to be sent to the Online, Services and External Relations Branch, Department of Health and Ageing, GPO Box 9848, Canberra ACT 2601, or via e-mail to copyright@health.gov.au.

Table of Contents

PART 1 INFORMATION FOR ALLIED HEALTH PROVIDERS.....	6
1.1 ELIGIBLE ALLIED HEALTH PROVIDERS	6
1.2 ELIGIBILITY OF PATIENTS	6
1.3 GENERAL PRACTITIONER (GP).....	8
1.4 MULTIPLE CONSULTATIONS ON THE SAME DAY	8
1.5 SERVICE REQUIREMENTS.....	9
1.6 MEDICARE BENEFIT/REBATE	9
1.7 DIRECT (BULK) BILLING.....	9
1.8 FEE SETTING AND OUT-OF-POCKET COSTS	9
1.9 MEDICARE SAFETY NET	9
1.10 PUBLICLY FUNDED SERVICES AND 19(2) EXEMPTIONS.....	9
1.11 PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE	10
1.12 CLAIMING FROM MEDICARE.....	10
1.12.1 BILLING PRACTICES CONTRARY TO THE ACT.....	10
1.13 CHANGES TO PROVIDER DETAILS.....	10
1.14 MEDICARE AUSTRALIA CONTACT DETAILS.....	11
1.15 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGEING CONTACT DETAILS FOR ITEMS IN THIS SCHEDULE.....	11
PART 2 INDIVIDUAL ALLIED HEALTH SERVICES FOR PATIENTS WHO HAVE A CHRONIC (OR TERMINAL) CONDITION AND COMPLEX CARE NEEDS (MBS ITEMS 10950 TO 10970).....	12
2.1 ELIGIBLE PATIENTS	12
2.1.1 CHRONIC MEDICAL CONDITION	12
2.1.2 COMPLEX CARE NEEDS	12
2.2 SERVICES AVAILABLE UNDER MEDICARE	12
2.2.1 NUMBER OF SERVICES PER YEAR.....	12
2.2.2 SERVICE LENGTH AND TYPE.....	13
2.3 ELIGIBLE ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS.....	13
2.3.1 REGISTERING WITH MEDICARE AUSTRALIA	15
2.3.2 CHANGES TO PROVIDER DETAILS	15
2.3.3 ALLIED HEALTH MEMBERSHIP OF A MULTIDISCIPLINARY CARE TEAM.....	15
2.4 REFERRAL REQUIREMENTS.....	15
2.4.1 REFERRAL FORM.....	15
2.4.2 REFERRAL VALIDITY.....	16
2.5 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.....	16
2.6 FURTHER INFORMATION.....	16
ITEM DESCRIPTORS	17
PART 3 GROUP ALLIED HEALTH SERVICES FOR PATIENTS WITH TYPE 2 DIABETES (MBS ITEMS 81100 TO 81125).....	24
3.1 ELIGIBLE PATIENTS	24
3.2 SERVICES AVAILABLE UNDER MEDICARE.....	24
3.2.1 ASSESSMENT FOR GROUP SERVICES (MBS ITEMS 81100, 81110 AND 81120).....	24
3.2.2 GROUP SERVICES (MBS ITEMS 81105, 81115 AND 81125).....	24

3.2.4	MULTIPLE SERVICES ON THE SAME DAY	25
3.3	ELIGIBLE ALLIED HEALTH PROVIDERS	25
3.4	REFERRAL REQUIREMENTS.....	25
3.5	REPORTING REQUIREMENTS	26
3.6	FURTHER INFORMATION.....	26
	ITEM DESCRIPTORS	27

PART 4 FOLLOW-UP ALLIED HEALTH SERVICES FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLES WHO HAVE HAD A HEALTH ASSESSMENT (MBS ITEMS 81300 TO 81360) 30

4.1	ELIGIBLE PATIENTS	30
4.2	SERVICES AVAILABLE UNDER MEDICARE.....	30
4.3	ELIGIBLE ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS.....	30
4.4	REFERRAL REQUIREMENTS.....	32
4.5	REPORTING REQUIREMENTS	33
	ITEM DESCRIPTORS	34

PART 5 PSYCHOLOGICAL THERAPY SERVICES (MBS ITEMS 80000 TO 80020) 41

5.1	ELIGIBLE PATIENTS	41
5.2	SERVICES AVAILABLE UNDER MEDICARE.....	41
5.2.1.	ELIGIBLE PSYCHOLOGICAL THERAPY SERVICES.....	41
5.2.2	NUMBER OF SERVICES PER YEAR.....	42
5.2.3	SERVICE LENGTH AND TYPE.....	43
5.3	ELIGIBLE ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS	43
5.3.1	ELIGIBLE CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS	43
5.3.2	REGISTERING WITH MEDICARE AUSTRALIA	43
5.4	REFERRAL REQUIREMENTS.....	43
5.4.1	REFERRALS.....	43
5.4.2	REFERRAL VALIDITY.....	44
5.5	REPORTING REQUIREMENTS	44
5.6	FURTHER INFORMATION.....	45
	ITEM DESCRIPTORS	46

PART 6 FOCUSED PSYCHOLOGICAL STRATEGIES (MBS ITEMS 80100 TO 80170) ... 48

6.1	ELIGIBLE PATIENTS.....	48
6.2	SERVICES AVAILABLE UNDER MEDICARE.....	48
6.2.1	ELIGIBLE FPS SERVICES.....	48
6.2.2	NUMBER OF SERVICES PER YEAR.....	49
6.2.3	SERVICE LENGTH AND TYPE.....	50
6.3	ELIGIBLE ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS	50
6.3.1	CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD) FOR ALLIED MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS PROVIDING FOCUSED PSYCHOLOGICAL STRATEGIES (FPS) SERVICES.....	51
6.4	REFERRAL REQUIREMENTS (GPs, PSYCHIATRISTS OR PAEDIATRICIANS TO ALLIED MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS).....	51
6.4.1	REFERRALS.....	51
6.4.2	REFERRAL VALIDITY.....	52
6.5	REPORTING REQUIREMENTS	52
6.6	FURTHER INFORMATION.....	53
	ITEM DESCRIPTORS	54

PART 7 PREGNANCY SUPPORT COUNSELLING (MBS ITEMS 81000 TO 81010)..... 58

7.1	ELIGIBLE PATIENTS	58
7.2	SERVICES AVAILABLE UNDER MEDICARE.....	58
7.2.1	NUMBER OF SERVICES PER YEAR.....	58
7.2.2	SERVICE LENGTH AND TYPE.....	58
7.3	ELIGIBLE ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS.....	58
7.3.1	REGISTERING WITH MEDICARE AUSTRALIA	59
7.4	REFERRAL REQUIREMENTS.....	59
7.4.2	REFERRAL VALIDITY.....	60
7.4.3	SUBSEQUENT REFERRALS.....	60
7.5	FURTHER INFORMATION.....	60
	ITEM DESCRIPTORS	61

PART 8 CHILDREN WITH AUTISM, PERVASIVE DEVELOPMENTAL DISORDER OR AN ELIGIBLE DISABILITY (MBS ITEMS 82000 TO 82035)..... 62

8.1	ELIGIBLE PATIENTS	62
8.2	ALLIED HEALTH SERVICES AVAILABLE UNDER MEDICARE	63
8.2.1	NUMBER OF ASSESSMENT SERVICES.....	63
8.2.2	NUMBER OF TREATMENT SERVICES.....	63
8.2.3	SERVICE LENGTH AND TYPE.....	64
8.3	ELIGIBLE ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS.....	64
8.4	REFERRAL REQUIREMENTS.....	65
8.4.1	REFERRALS.....	65
8.4.2	REFERRAL VALIDITY.....	66
8.5	REPORTING REQUIREMENTS	66
	ITEM DESCRIPTORS	67

PART 9 DIAGNOSTIC AUDIOLOGY SERVICES (MBS ITEMS 82300 TO 82332)..... 71

9.1	OVERVIEW	71
9.2	REQUESTING ARRANGEMENTS.....	71
9.3	ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR AUDIOLOGISTS.....	72
9.4	REPORTING REQUIREMENTS	72
9.5	NOTES ON DIAGNOSTIC AUDIOLOGY SERVICES.....	72
9.5.1	BRAIN STEM EVOKED RESPONSE AUDIOMETRY - (ITEM 82300).....	72
9.5.2	NON-DETERMINATE AUDIOMETRY - (ITEM 82306).....	72
9.5.3	CONDITIONS FOR AUDIOLOGY SERVICES - (ITEMS 82309 TO 82318)	72
9.5.4	OTO-ACOUSTIC EMISSION AUDIOMETRY - (ITEM 82332)	72
	ITEM DESCRIPTORS	73

PART 1 INFORMATION FOR ALLIED HEALTH PROVIDERS

1.1 ELIGIBLE ALLIED HEALTH PROVIDERS

To be eligible to provide services under Medicare, allied health professionals must meet specific eligibility requirements, be in private practice and be registered with Medicare Australia. The specific requirements for each Medicare item are detailed in the relevant Part of this document.

Provider registration forms can be obtained from Medicare Australia on 132 150 or at <http://www.humanservices.gov.au>.

Chiropractors, osteopaths, physiotherapists and podiatrists who are already registered with Medicare Australia to order diagnostic imaging under Medicare, do not need to re-register to provide services under these initiatives.

1.2 ELIGIBILITY OF PATIENTS

Eligibility requirements for each of the allied health items available under Medicare are outlined below. The requirements for each item are also detailed in the relevant Part of this document. If there is any doubt about a patient's eligibility, Medicare Australia will be able to assist. Allied health professionals or GPs can call Medicare Australia on 132 150 to check. Patients can call Medicare Australia on 132 011.

<i>Eligible patients</i>	<i>Number of allied health services per patient</i>	<i>Allied health professional eligible to provide the service</i>
Patients who have a chronic (or terminal) medical condition <u>and</u> complex care needs requiring a multidisciplinary approach (refer Part 2)	Up to five individual services (in total) per calendar year (no exceptions)	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner Aboriginal health worker Audiologist Chiropractor Diabetes educator Dietitian Exercise physiologist Mental health worker Occupational therapist Osteopath Physiotherapist Podiatrist Psychologist Speech pathologist
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who have had a health check (refer Part 3)	Up to five individual services (in total) per calendar year	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner Aboriginal health worker Audiologist

<i>Eligible patients</i>	<i>Number of allied health services per patient</i>	<i>Allied health professional eligible to provide the service</i>
	(Note: these services are in addition to the five individual services for patients with a chronic or terminal medical condition and complex care needs)	Chiropractor Diabetes educator Dietitian Exercise physiologist Mental health worker Occupational therapist Osteopath Physiotherapist Podiatrist Psychologist Speech pathologist
Patients who have type 2 diabetes (refer Part 4)	One individual assessment <u>and</u> up to eight group sessions per calendar year (Note: these services are in addition to the five individual services for patients with a chronic or terminal medical condition and complex care needs)	Diabetes educator Dietitian Exercise physiologist
Patients with an assessed mental disorder (refer Parts 5 and 6)	Up to ten individual services and an additional six services in exceptional circumstances (to a maximum of 16 individual services per patient from 1 March 2012 to 31 December 2012) <u>and</u> up to ten group therapy services per calendar year. Services provided under the Access to Allied Psychological Services (ATAPS) should not be used in addition to the ten (up to 16 services where exceptional circumstances apply) psychological therapy services (items 80000 to 80020), focussed psychological services-allied mental health services (items 80100 to 80170 and/or GP focussed psychological strategies services (items 2721 to 2727).	Clinical psychologist Psychologist Occupational therapist Social worker (Note: services can also be provided by a qualified medical practitioner)

<i>Eligible patients</i>	<i>Number of allied health services per patient</i>	<i>Allied health professional eligible to provide the service</i>
Women who are concerned about either a current pregnancy, or one that occurred in the previous 12 months (refer Part 7)	Up to three services per pregnancy	Psychologist Social worker Mental health nurse (Note: services can also be provided by a qualified medical practitioner)
Children with autism, pervasive developmental disorder (PDD) or an eligible disability – aged under 13 years for diagnosis services and under 15 years for treatment services (refer Part 8)	Up to four services for assessment (in total per child) and up to 20 early intervention treatment services (in total per child).	Audiologist Occupational therapist Optometrist Orthoptist Physiotherapist Psychologist Speech pathologist
Patients with potential medical conditions (ear disease or related disorders), including patients whose hearing loss may be able to be corrected by surgery or medical intervention (refer Part 9)	Diagnostic audiology services, as specified in the written request from the Ear, Nose and Throat specialist or neurologist. A request may be for more than one service making up a single audiological assessment, but cannot be for more than one audiological assessment.	Audiologist

A calendar year is the one-year period of time that begins on 1 January and ends on 31 December.

1.3 GENERAL PRACTITIONER (GP)

In this document, a reference to a GP is a generic reference to a medical practitioner (including a general practitioner, but not including a specialist or consultant physician).

1.4 MULTIPLE CONSULTATIONS ON THE SAME DAY

Consultations that run longer than the minimum time specified in the item descriptor should be billed as a single consultation. For payment of a benefit/rebate for more than one consultation with a patient on the same day by the same allied health professional, the subsequent consultation must not be a continuation of the initial consultation (except in the case of items 81105, 81115, 81125 and the autism/PDD or disability items 82000 - 82035).

1.5 SERVICE REQUIREMENTS

The service requirements for each allied health item are contained in the item descriptors provided at the end of each Part of this document. These are legislative requirements contained in the *Health Insurance (Allied Health Services) Determination 2011* (as amended) and therefore must be met before the item can be claimed.

For any service listed on the MBS to be eligible for a Medicare rebate, the service must be provided in accordance with the provisions of all relevant Commonwealth and State and Territory laws.

1.6 MEDICARE BENEFIT/REBATE

The amount of the Medicare benefit (rebate) for each item is provided in the item descriptor for that item. These amounts are generally indexed on 1 November of each year.

1.7 DIRECT (BULK) BILLING

The allied health provider may choose to accept the amount of the Medicare benefit/rebate that is payable to the patient as full payment for the service. In such cases, the patient assigns his/her Medicare benefit to the provider, and the provider is not legally able to charge the patient any amount in addition to the Medicare benefit.

Where the patient is bulk billed, he/she will have no out-of-pocket costs.

1.8 FEE SETTING AND OUT-OF-POCKET COSTS

With the exception of participating optometrists, allied health professionals are free to determine their own fees for the professional service. Charges in excess of the Medicare benefit are the responsibility of the patient. However, out-of-pocket costs will count toward the Medicare Safety Net for the patient. Allied health services in excess of the maximum number of Medicare rebateable services for each item (e.g. five individual allied health services per calendar year for patients with a chronic or terminal illness) will not attract a Medicare benefit, and the Safety Net Arrangements will not apply to costs incurred for such services.

1.9 MEDICARE SAFETY NET

For information about the original and the extended Medicare Safety Nets, refer to the Explanatory notes for the *Medicare Benefits Schedule* (MBS).

1.10 PUBLICLY FUNDED SERVICES AND 19(2) EXEMPTIONS

Medicare rebates for allied health items do not apply to services that are already funded by the Commonwealth or State or Territory governments or services provided to an admitted patient of a public hospital.

However, where an exemption under section 19(2) of the *Health Insurance Act 1973* has been granted to an Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service or State/Territory Government health clinic, the allied health items can be claimed for services provided by

eligible allied health professionals salaried by, or contracted to, the service or clinic. All requirements of the items must be met, including registration of the allied health professional with Medicare Australia.

1.11 PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE

Patients with private health coverage need to decide if they will use Medicare or their private health ancillary cover to pay for these allied health services. They cannot use their private health ancillary cover to 'top up' the Medicare rebate paid for the service.

1.12 CLAIMING FROM MEDICARE

Information on the different Medicare claiming options available to providers is available at <http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/provider/medicare/claiming/index.jsp>

1.12.1 Billing practices contrary to the Act

Under the *Health Insurance Act 1973* (as amended), it is not permissible to:

1. Include the cost of a non-clinically relevant service in a consultation charge. Medicare benefits can only be paid for clinically relevant services. If an allied health professional chooses to use a procedure that is not generally accepted in their profession as necessary for the treatment of the patient, the cost of this procedure cannot be included in the fee for a Medicare item. Any charge for non-clinically relevant services must be separately listed on the account and not included in the fee billed to Medicare.
2. Include an amount for goods supplied for the patient to use at home in the consultation charge (e.g. wheelchairs, oxygen tanks, continence pads). Charges can be levied for these items, but they must be listed separately on the account and not billed to Medicare.
3. Charge part or all of an in-patient procedure to an out-patient consultation. If an allied health professional charges part or all of an in-patient procedure to an out-patient consultation, the account issued by the practitioner is not an accurate statement of the services provided and would constitute a false or misleading statement.
4. Re-issue modified accounts to include other charges and out-of-pocket expenses not previously included in the account. The account issued to a patient by an allied health professional must state the amount charged for the service provided and truly reflect what occurred between the patient and practitioner. While re-issuing an account to correct a genuine error is legitimate, if an account is re-issued to increase the fee or load additional components to the fee, the account is not a true statement of the fee charged for the service and would constitute a false or misleading statement.

Where a Medicare benefit has been inappropriately paid, Medicare Australia may request recovery of that benefit from the practitioner concerned.

1.13 CHANGES TO PROVIDER DETAILS

Allied health providers must notify Medicare Australia in writing of all changes to mailing details to ensure that they continue to receive any updates about Medicare rebateable allied health services.

1.14 MEDICARE AUSTRALIA CONTACT DETAILS

The Department of Human Services (Medicare Australia) is responsible for the operation of Medicare and the payment of Medicare benefits.

Medicare Australia contact details

Postal: Medicare, GPO Box 9822, in the Capital City in each State

Telephone: Australia wide at the cost of a local call.

Provider enquiries: 132 150

Public enquiries: 132 011

1.15 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGEING CONTACT DETAILS FOR ITEMS IN THIS SCHEDULE

Telephone: 02 6289 1555

Email: mbsonline@health.gov.au

Internet: www.health.gov.au/mbsprimarycareitems or <http://www.mbsonline.gov.au/>

This publication, *Medicare Benefits Schedule - Allied Health Services*, is also available on the Department of Health and Ageing Internet site at www.health.gov.au/mbsonline.

PART 2
INDIVIDUAL ALLIED HEALTH SERVICES FOR PATIENTS WHO HAVE A
CHRONIC (OR TERMINAL) CONDITION AND COMPLEX CARE NEEDS
(MBS ITEMS 10950 TO 10970)

2.1 ELIGIBLE PATIENTS

Patients in the community or private in-patients of a hospital may be eligible for individual allied health services (items 10950-10970) if they have a chronic or terminal medical condition and complex care needs that are being managed by their GP through the following Chronic Disease Management (CDM) services:

- A GP Management Plan – MBS item 721 (or review item 732); and
- Team Care Arrangements – MBS item 723 (or review item 732).

Patients who are permanent residents of an aged care facility may be eligible for individual allied health services (items 10950-10970) if they have a chronic or terminal medical condition and complex care needs and their GP has contributed to a multidisciplinary care plan prepared for them by the aged care facility or to a review of such a plan (item 731).

The allied health services must be directly related to management of the patient's chronic condition/s.

Only the GP can determine whether the patient's chronic condition would benefit from allied health services and the need for such services must be identified in the patient's care plan.

2.1.1 Chronic medical condition

A chronic medical condition is one that has been or is likely to be present for at least six months (e.g., asthma, cancer, cardiovascular illness, diabetes mellitus, musculoskeletal conditions and stroke). There is not a comprehensive list all the possible medical conditions that either are/are not regarded as a chronic medical condition for the purposes of the CDM items. Whether a patient is eligible for CDM items and associated allied health items is essentially a matter for the GP to determine, using their clinical judgement and taking into account both the eligibility criteria and the general guidance material.

2.1.2 Complex care needs

A patient is considered to have complex care needs if they require care from a multidisciplinary team consisting of their GP and at least two other health or care providers, each of whom provides a different kind of treatment or service to the patient.

2.2 SERVICES AVAILABLE UNDER MEDICARE

2.2.1 Number of services per year

Medicare benefits are available for up to five allied health services per eligible patient, per calendar year (i.e. the period of time between 1 January and 31 December inclusive). Exceptions are not possible. If more than five services are provided in a calendar year, the subsequent service/s will not attract a Medicare rebate and the Extended Medicare Safety Net arrangements will not apply to costs incurred by the patient for the service/s.

The five allied health services can be made up of one type of service (e.g. five physiotherapy services) or a combination of different types of services (e.g. one dietetic and four podiatry services).

If there is any doubt about the number of allied health services already claimed by the patient in the calendar year, the allied health professional or patient can call Medicare Australia to check this information.

2.2.2 Service length and type

Each allied health service must be of at least 20 minutes duration and be provided to an individual not a group. The allied health professional must personally attend the patient. All the requirements of the relevant item must be met for Medicare benefits to be payable.

2.3 ELIGIBLE ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

The allied health items (10950 to 10970) can only be claimed for services provided by eligible allied health professionals who are registered with Medicare Australia. To register with Medicare Australia to provide these services, allied health professionals must meet the specific eligibility requirements detailed below.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner must be registered with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners may use any of the titles authorised by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board: Aboriginal health practitioners; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners; or Torres Strait Islander health practitioners.

Aboriginal health worker in a State or Territory other than the Northern Territory must have been awarded either:

- a. a Certificate III in Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care (or an equivalent or higher qualification) by a registered training organisation; or
- b. a Certificate III in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (or an equivalent or higher qualification) by a registered training organisation before 1 July 2012.

Note: Where individuals consider their qualification to be equivalent to or higher than the qualifications listed above, they will need to contact a registered training organisation in their State or Territory to have the qualification assessed as such before they can register with Medicare Australia. In the Northern Territory, a practitioner must be registered with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia.

Audiologist must be either a 'Full Member' of the Audiological Society of Australia Inc (ASA), who holds a 'Certificate of Clinical Practice' issued by the ASA; or an 'Ordinary Member – Audiologist' or 'Fellow Audiologist' of the Australian College of Audiology (ACAud).

Diabetes educator must be a Credentialed Diabetes Educator (CDE) as credentialed by the Australian Diabetes Educators Association (ADEA).

Chiropractor must be registered with the Chiropractic Board of Australia.

Dietitian must be an ‘Accredited Practising Dietitian’ as recognised by the Dietitians Association of Australia (DAA).

Exercise physiologist must be an ‘Accredited Exercise Physiologist’ as accredited by Exercise and Sports Science Australia (ESSA).

Mental health worker

‘Mental health’ can include services provided by members of any of the five following professional groups:

- psychologists;
- mental health nurses;
- occupational therapists;
- social workers;
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners / Aboriginal health workers.

Psychologists, occupational therapists, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners and Aboriginal health workers are eligible in separate categories for these items.

Mental health nurse must be a credentialed mental health nurse, as certified by the Australian College of Mental Health Nurses.

Social worker must be a ‘Member’ of the Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW) and be certified by AASW as meeting the standards for mental health set out in the document published by AASW titled ‘Practice Standards for Mental Health Social Workers’ as in force on 8 November 2008.

Occupational therapist must be registered with the Occupational Therapy Board of Australia.

Osteopath must be registered with the Osteopathy Board of Australia.

Physiotherapist must be registered with the Physiotherapy Board of Australia

Podiatrist must be registered with the Podiatry Board of Australia.

Psychologist must hold General Registration with the Psychology Board of Australia.

Speech pathologist must be a ‘Practising Member’ of Speech Pathology Australia.

Note: A transitional provision is in place to ensure that speech pathologists in Queensland, who will be required to be practising members of Speech Pathology Australia when the regulation of speech pathology in Queensland is abolished, does not disrupt the provision of Medicare rebateable services to patients. Until 31 August 2013, anyone who was a speech pathologist in Queensland in relation to a speech pathology health service on 30 April 2013 will be taken to be a speech pathologist in relation to those services.

2.3.1 Registering with Medicare Australia

Chiropractors, osteopaths, physiotherapists and podiatrists who were already registered with Medicare Australia on 1 July 2004 to order diagnostic imaging under Medicare, do not need to re-register to provide services under this initiative. Allied health professionals registering with Medicare Australia for the first time need to fill in one application form which will give them rights to provide services under this initiative and order diagnostic imaging tests etc., where appropriate, under Medicare.

Provider registration forms may be obtained from Medicare Australia on 132 150 or at <http://www.humanservices.gov.au>.

2.3.2 Changes to provider details

Allied health providers must notify Medicare Australia in writing of all changes to mailing details to ensure that they continue to receive information about Medicare rebateable allied health services.

2.3.3 Allied health membership of a multidisciplinary care team

For patients to be eligible for access to allied health services under the Medicare CDM items, they must have complex care needs requiring ongoing care from at least three collaborating health or care providers, each of whom provides a different kind of treatment or service. At least one of these providers has to be a medical practitioner, who must consult with the other collaborating health or care providers when developing Team Care Arrangements (TCAs).

In some cases, an allied health professional providing a Medicare-rebateable service will be a member of the multidisciplinary care team convened by the GP to manage a patient's chronic condition and complex care needs under TCAs. However, this is not a mandatory requirement. The allied health service under Medicare can also be provided by an allied health professional who is not part of the TCAs planning team, providing the service has been identified as necessary by the patient's GP and recommended in their care plan/s.

2.4 REFERRAL REQUIREMENTS

2.4.1 Referral form

For Medicare benefits to be payable, the patient must be referred to an eligible allied health professional by their GP using the 'Referral Form for Chronic Disease Allied Health (Individual) Services under Medicare' that has been issued by the Department of Health and Ageing or a referral form that contains all the components of this form. The Department of Health and Ageing referral form can be downloaded at www.health.gov.au/mbsprimarycareitems

GPs may use one referral form to refer patients for single or multiple services of the same service type (e.g. five chiropractic services). If referring a patient for single or multiple services of different service types (e.g. two dietetic services and three podiatry services), a separate referral form will be needed for each service type.

The patient will need to present the referral form to the allied health professional at the first consultation, unless the GP has previously provided it directly to the allied health professional.

It is recommended that allied health professionals retain the referral form for 24 months from the date the service was rendered for Medicare Australia auditing purposes.

A copy of the referral form is not required to accompany Medicare claims, and allied health professionals do not need to attach a signed copy of the form to patients' itemised accounts/receipts or assignment of benefit forms.

A copy of the referral form does not need to be sent to the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing.

2.4.2 Referral validity

A referral is valid for the stated number of services. If all services are not used during the calendar year in which the patient was referred, the unused services can be used in the next calendar year. However, those services will be counted as part of the five rebates for allied health services available to the patient during that calendar year.

When all referred services have been used, or a referral for a different type of allied health service is required, patients need to obtain a new referral from their GP. GPs may choose to use this visit to undertake a review of the patient's CDM plan/s or, where appropriate, to manage the process using a GP consultation item.

It is not necessary to have new CDM plans prepared each calendar year in order to access a new referral(s) for eligible allied health services. Patients continue to be eligible for rebates for allied health services while they are being managed under the prerequisite CDM items as long as the need for eligible services continues to be recommended in their plan/s.

2.5 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Where an allied health professional provides a *single* service to the patient under referral, the allied health professional must provide a written report back to the referring GP after that service.

Where an allied health professional provides *multiple* services to the same patient under referral, the allied health professional must provide a written report back to the referring GP after the first and last services, or more often if clinically necessary.

Written reports should include:

- any investigations, tests, and/or assessments carried out on the patient;
- any treatment provided; and
- proposed future management of the patient's condition or problem.

2.6 FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information refer to www.health.gov.au/mbsonline or visit www.health.gov.au/mbsprimarycareitems

ITEM DESCRIPTORS

MISCELLANEOUS	MISCELLANEOUS
10950	<p style="text-align: center;">GROUP M3 - ALLIED HEALTH SERVICES</p> <p>ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HEALTH SERVICE Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander health service provided to a person by an eligible Aboriginal health worker or eligible Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the service is provided to a person who has <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) a chronic condition; and (ii) complex care needs being managed by a medical practitioner (including a general practitioner, but not a specialist or consultant physician) under both a GP Management Plan and Team Care Arrangements or, if the person is a resident of an aged care facility, the person's medical practitioner has contributed to a multidisciplinary care plan; and (b) the service is recommended in the person's Team Care Arrangements or multidisciplinary care plan as part of the management of the person's chronic condition and complex care needs; and (c) the person is referred to the eligible Aboriginal health worker or eligible Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner by the medical practitioner using a referral form that has been issued by the Department or a referral form that contains all the components of the form issued by the Department; and (d) the person is not an admitted patient of a hospital; and (e) the service is provided to the person individually and in person; and (f) the service is of at least 20 minutes duration; and (g) after the service, the eligible Aboriginal health worker or eligible Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner gives a written report to the referring medical practitioner mentioned in paragraph (c): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) if the service is the only service under the referral – in relation to that service; or (ii) if the service is the first or the last service under the referral – in relation to the service; or (iii) if neither subparagraph (i) nor (ii) applies but the service involves matters that the referring medical practitioner would reasonably be expected to be informed of – in relation to those matters <p><i>- to a maximum of 5 services (including any services to which items 10950 to 10970 inclusive apply) in a calendar year</i></p> <p>Fee: \$62.25 Benefit: 85% = \$52.95 Extended Medicare Safety Net Cap: \$186.75</p>
10951	<p>DIABETES EDUCATION Diabetes education health service provided to a person by an eligible diabetes educator if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the service is provided to a person who has <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) a chronic condition; and (ii) complex care needs being managed by a medical practitioner (including a general practitioner, but not a specialist or consultant physician) under both a GP Management Plan and Team Care Arrangements or, if the person is a resident of an aged care facility, the person's medical practitioner has contributed to a multidisciplinary care plan; and (b) the service is recommended in the person's Team Care Arrangements or multidisciplinary care plan as part of the management of the person's chronic condition and complex care needs; and (c) the person is referred to the eligible diabetes educator by the medical practitioner using a referral form that has been issued by the Department or a referral form that contains all the components of the form issued by the Department; and (d) the person is not an admitted patient of a hospital; and (e) the service is provided to the person individually and in person; and (f) the service is of at least 20 minutes duration; and (g) after the service, the eligible diabetes educator gives a written report to the referring medical practitioner mentioned in paragraph (c): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) if the service is the only service under the referral – in relation to that service; or (ii) if the service is the first or the last service under the referral – in relation to the service; or (iii) if neither subparagraph (i) nor (ii) applies but the service involves matters that the referring medical practitioner would reasonably be expected to be informed of – in relation to those matters <p><i>- to a maximum of five services (including any services to which items 10950 to 10970 inclusive apply) in a calendar year</i></p> <p>Fee: \$62.25 Benefit: 85% = \$52.95 Extended Medicare Safety Net Cap: \$186.75</p>

SPEECH PATHOLOGY

Speech pathology health service provided to a person by an eligible speech pathologist if:

- (a) the service is provided to a person who has
 - (i) a chronic condition; and
 - (ii) complex care needs being managed by a medical practitioner (including a general practitioner, but not a specialist or consultant physician) under both a GP Management Plan and Team Care Arrangements or, if the person is a resident of an aged care facility, the person's medical practitioner has contributed to a multidisciplinary care plan; and
- (b) the service is recommended in the person's Team Care Arrangements or multidisciplinary care plan as part of the management of the person's chronic condition and complex care needs; and
- (c) the person is referred to the eligible speech pathologist by the medical practitioner using a referral form that has been issued by the Department or a referral form that contains all the components of the form issued by the Department; and
- (d) the person is not an admitted patient of a hospital; and
- (e) the service is provided to the person individually and in person; and
- (f) the service is of at least 20 minutes duration; and
- (g) after the service, the eligible speech pathologist gives a written report to the referring medical practitioner mentioned in paragraph (c):
 - (i) if the service is the only service under the referral – in relation to that service; or
 - (ii) if the service is the first or the last service under the referral – in relation to the service; or
 - (iii) if neither subparagraph (i) nor (ii) applies but the service involves matters that the referring medical practitioner would reasonably be expected to be informed of – in relation to those matters; and

- to a maximum of five services (including any services to which items 10950 to 10970 inclusive apply) in a calendar year

Fee: \$62.25

Benefit: 85% = \$52.95

10970

Extended Medicare Safety Net Cap: \$186.75

PART 3
GROUP ALLIED HEALTH SERVICES FOR PATIENTS WITH TYPE 2 DIABETES
(MBS ITEMS 81100 TO 81125)

3.1 ELIGIBLE PATIENTS

Medicare benefits are available for group allied health services for patients with type 2 diabetes.

Services available under these items are in addition to the five individual allied health services that are available to eligible patients each calendar year and outlined in Parts 2 and 4.

To be eligible for the group allied health services, the patient must have in place one of the following:

- a GP Management Plan (GPMP) (MBS item 721); or
- for a resident of an aged care facility, the GP has contributed to a multidisciplinary care plan prepared for the resident by the facility (MBS item 731).

Note: Generally, residents of an aged care facility rely on the facility for assistance to manage their type 2 diabetes. Therefore, the resident may not need to be referred for allied health group services under these items, as the self-management approach offered in group services may not be appropriate.

Unlike the individual allied health services under items 10950 to 10970, there is no additional requirement for a Team Care Arrangements service (MBS item 723) in order for patients with type 2 diabetes to be referred for group allied health services under Medicare.

3.2 SERVICES AVAILABLE UNDER MEDICARE

3.2.1 Assessment for group services (MBS items 81100, 81110 and 81120)

The purpose of the assessment service is to undertake an individual assessment of the patient preparing him/her for an appropriate group services program. The service involves taking a comprehensive patient history, identification of individual goals and preparing the patient for the group service. This may also provide an opportunity to identify any patient who is likely to be unsuitable for group services. An assessment service has to be of at least 45 minutes duration. It can be provided by a diabetes educator, an exercise physiologist or a dietitian on referral from a GP.

3.2.2 Group services (MBS items 81105, 81115 and 81125)

These services are provided in a group setting to assist with the management of type 2 diabetes. Group services have to be of at least 60 minutes duration. They can be provided to the patient by a diabetes educator, exercise physiologist or dietitian on referral from a GP.

3.2.3 Number of services per year

Patients are eligible for a maximum of one **assessment** for group services (MBS items 81100, 81110 or 81120) per calendar year. If more than one assessment service is provided in a calendar year, the subsequent service/s will not attract a Medicare rebate and the MBS safety net arrangements will not apply to costs incurred by the patient for the service/s.

Patients are eligible for up to **eight group allied health services** in total per calendar year. Each separate group service must be provided to the patient by only one type of allied health professional (i.e. by a diabetes educator or an exercise physiologist or a dietitian). However, the overall group services program provided for the patient could be comprised of one type of service only (e.g. eight diabetes education services) or a combination of services (e.g. three diabetes education services, three dietitian services and two exercise physiology services). An eligible allied health professional with more than one Medicare provider number (e.g. for the provision of diabetes education and dietetics) may provide separate services under each of these provider numbers.

Allied health group service providers are strongly encouraged to deliver multidisciplinary group services programs that allow patients to benefit from a range of interventions designed to assist in the management of their type 2 diabetes.

If a patient with type 2 diabetes also has complex care needs and the GP has coordinated their care using Team Care Arrangements (MBS item 723) and a GP Management Plan (MBS item 721), the patient may also be eligible for up to five individual allied health services per calendar year (MBS items 10950 – 10970).

If there is any doubt about a patient's eligibility, Medicare Australia will be able to confirm the number of services already claimed by the patient during the calendar year. The allied health professionals or the patient can call Medicare Australia on 132 011 to check this information.

3.2.4 Multiple services on the same day

Where clinically relevant, up to two group services may be provided consecutively on the same day by the same allied health professional.

3.3 ELIGIBLE ALLIED HEALTH PROVIDERS

MBS items 81100 to 81125 only apply to services provided by eligible diabetes educators, exercise physiologists and dietitians who are registered with Medicare Australia. If providers are already registered with Medicare Australia, they do not need to register separately to use these items.

Eligibility criteria are as follows:

Diabetes educator must be a Credentialed Diabetes Educator (CDE) as credentialled by the Australian Diabetes Educators Association (ADEA).

Exercise physiologist must be an 'Accredited Exercise Physiologist' as accredited by Exercise and Sports Science Australia (ESSA).

Dietitian must be an 'Accredited Practising Dietitian' as recognised by the Dietitians Association of Australia (DAA).

3.4 REFERRAL REQUIREMENTS

The patient must be referred by their GP to an eligible allied health professional. When referring patients, GPs need to use the referral form that has been issued by the Department of Health and Ageing or a referral form that contains all the components of that form. The

referral form can be downloaded from the Department of Health and Ageing website at www.health.gov.au/mbsprimarycareitems

GPs are also encouraged to provide a copy of the relevant part of the patient's care plan to the allied health professional.

It is recommended that allied health professionals retain a copy of the referral form for 24 months from the date the service was rendered (for Medicare Australia auditing purposes).

A copy of the referral form does not need to be sent to the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing.

3.5 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

On completion of an assessment service, the allied health professional must provide a written report back to the referring GP outlining the assessment undertaken, whether the patient is suitable for group services and, if so, the nature of the group services to be delivered.

On completion of a group service, each allied health professional must provide, or contribute to, a written report back to the referring GP in respect of each patient. The report should describe the group services provided for the patient and indicate the outcomes achieved. While each allied health professional is required to provide feedback to the GP in relation to the group services that they provide to the patient, allied health professionals involved in the provision of a multidisciplinary program are encouraged to combine feedback into a single report to the referring GP.

3.6 FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information refer to www.health.gov.au/mbsonline or visit www.health.gov.au/mbsprimarycareitems .

ITEM DESCRIPTORS

MISCELLANEOUS	MISCELLANEOUS
81100	<p style="text-align: center;">GROUP M9 - ALLIED HEALTH GROUP SERVICES</p> <p>DIABETES EDUCATION – ASSESSMENT FOR GROUP SERVICES Diabetes education health service provided to a person by an eligible diabetes educator for the purposes of ASSESSING a person’s suitability for group services for the management of type 2 diabetes, including taking a comprehensive patient history, identifying an appropriate group services program based on the patient’s needs, and preparing the person for the group services, if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the service is provided to a person who has type 2 diabetes; and (b) the person is being managed by a medical practitioner (including a general practitioner, but not a specialist or consultant physician) under a GP Management Plan [ie item 721 or 732], or if the person is a resident of an aged care facility, their medical practitioner has contributed to a multidisciplinary care plan [ie item 731]; and (c) the person is referred to an eligible diabetes educator by the medical practitioner using a referral form that has been issued by the Department of Health and Ageing, or a referral form that contains all the components of the form issued by the Department; and (d) the person is not an admitted patient of a hospital; and (e) the service is provided to the person individually and in person; and (f) the service is of at least 45 minutes duration; and (g) after the service, the eligible diabetes educator gives a written report to the referring medical practitioner mentioned in paragraph (c); and (h) for a service for which a private health insurance benefit is payable – the person has elected to claim the Medicare for the service, and not the private health insurance benefit. <p>Benefits are payable once only in a calendar year for this or any other Assessment for Group Services item (including services in items 81100, 81110 and 81120). Fee: \$79.85 Benefit: 85% = \$67.90 Extended Medicare Safety Net Cap: \$239.55</p>
81105	<p>DIABETES EDUCATION – GROUP SERVICE Diabetes education health service provided to a person by an eligible diabetes educator, as a GROUP SERVICE for the management of type 2 diabetes if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the person has been assessed as suitable for a type 2 diabetes group service under assessment item 81100, 81110 or 81120; and (b) the service is provided to a person who is part of a group of between 2 and 12 patients inclusive; and (c) the person is not an admitted patient of a hospital; and (d) the service is provided to a person involving the personal attendance by an eligible diabetes educator; and (e) the service is of at least 60 minutes duration; and (f) after the last service in the group services program provided to the person under items 81105, 81115 or 81125, the eligible diabetes educator prepares, or contribute to, a written report to be provided to the referring medical practitioner; and (g) an attendance record for the group is maintained by the eligible diabetes educator; and (h) for a service for which a private health insurance benefit is payable – the person has elected to claim the Medicare for the service, and not the private health insurance benefit. <p><i>- to a maximum of eight GROUP SERVICES (including services in items 81105, 81115 and 81125) in a calendar year.</i> Fee: \$19.90 Benefit: 85% = \$16.95 Extended Medicare Safety Net Cap: \$59.70</p>

81110	<p>EXERCISE PHYSIOLOGY – ASSESSMENT FOR GROUP SERVICES</p> <p>Exercise physiology health service provided to a person by an eligible exercise physiologist for the purposes of ASSESSING a person’s suitability for group services for the management of type 2 diabetes, including taking a comprehensive patient history, identifying an appropriate group services program based on the patient’s needs, and preparing the person for the group services, if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the service is provided to a person who has type 2 diabetes; and (b) the person is being managed by a medical practitioner (including a general practitioner, but not a specialist or consultant physician) under a GP Management Plan [ie item 721 or 732], or if the person is a resident of an aged care facility, their medical practitioner has contributed to a multidisciplinary care plan [ie item 731]; and (c) the person is referred to an eligible exercise physiologist by the medical practitioner using a referral form that has been issued by the Department of Health and Ageing, or a referral form that contains all the components of the form issued by the Department; and (d) the person is not an admitted patient of a hospital; and (e) the service is provided to the person individually and in person; and (f) the service is of at least 45 minutes duration; and (g) after the service, the eligible exercise physiologist gives a written report to the referring medical practitioner mentioned in paragraph (c); and (h) for a service for which a private health insurance benefit is payable – the person has elected to claim the Medicare for the service, and not the private health insurance benefit. <p>Benefits are payable once only in a calendar year for this or any other Assessment for Group Services item (including services in items 81100, 81110 and 81120).</p> <p>Fee: \$79.85 Benefit: 85% = \$67.90 Extended Medicare Safety Net Cap: \$239.55</p>
81115	<p>EXERCISE PHYSIOLOGY – GROUP SERVICE</p> <p>Exercise physiology health service provided to a person by an eligible exercise physiologist, as a GROUP SERVICE for the management of type 2 diabetes if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the person has been assessed as suitable for a type 2 diabetes group service under assessment item 81100, 81110 or 81120; and (b) the service is provided to a person who is part of a group of between 2 and 12 patients inclusive; and (c) the person is not an admitted patient of a hospital; and (d) the service is provided to a person involving the personal attendance by an eligible exercise physiologist; and (e) the service is of at least 60 minutes duration; and (f) after the last service in the group services program provided to the person under items 81105, 81115 or 81125, the eligible exercise physiologist prepares, or contribute to, a written report to be provided to the referring medical practitioner; and (g) an attendance record for the group is maintained by the eligible exercise physiologist; and (h) for a service for which a private health insurance benefit is payable – the person has elected to claim the Medicare for the service, and not the private health insurance benefit. <p><i>- to a maximum of eight GROUP SERVICES (including services in items 81105, 81115 and 81125) in a calendar year.</i></p> <p>Fee: \$19.90 Benefit: 85% = \$16.95 Extended Medicare Safety Net Cap: \$59.70</p>

81120	<p>DIETETICS – ASSESSMENT FOR GROUP SERVICES Dietetics health service provided to a person by an eligible dietitian for the purposes of ASSESSING a person’s suitability for group services for the management of type 2 diabetes, including taking a comprehensive patient history, identifying an appropriate group services program based on the patient’s needs, and preparing the person for the group services, if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the service is provided to a person who has type 2 diabetes; and (b) the person is being managed by a medical practitioner (including a general practitioner, but not a specialist or consultant physician) under a GP Management Plan [ie item 721 or 732], or if the person is a resident of an aged care facility, their medical practitioner has contributed to a multidisciplinary care plan [ie item 731]; and (c) the person is referred to an eligible dietitian by the medical practitioner using a referral form that has been issued by the Department of Health and Ageing, or a referral form that contains all the components of the form issued by the Department; and (d) the person is not an admitted patient of a hospital; and (e) the service is provided to the person individually and in person; and (f) the service is of at least 45 minutes duration; and (g) after the service, the eligible dietitian gives a written report to the referring medical practitioner mentioned in paragraph (c); and (h) for a service for which a private health insurance benefit is payable – the person has elected to claim the Medicare for the service, and not the private health insurance benefit. <p>Benefits are payable once only in a calendar year for this or any other Assessment for Group Services item (including services in items 81100, 81110 and 81120). Fee: \$79.85 Benefit: 85% = \$67.90 Extended Medicare Safety Net Cap: \$239.55</p>
81125	<p>DIETETICS – GROUP SERVICE Dietetics health service provided to a person by an eligible dietitian, as a GROUP SERVICE for the management of type 2 diabetes if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the person has been assessed as suitable for a type 2 diabetes group service under assessment item 81100, 81110 or 81120; and (b) the service is provided to a person who is part of a group of between 2 and 12 patients inclusive; and (c) the person is not an admitted patient of a hospital; and (d) the service is provided to a person involving the personal attendance by an eligible dietitian; and (e) the service is of at least 60 minutes duration; and (f) after the last service in the group services program provided to the person under items 81105, 81115 or 81125, the eligible dietitian prepares, or contribute to, a written report to be provided to the referring medical practitioner; and (g) an attendance record for the group is maintained by the eligible dietitian; and (h) (h) for a service for which a private health insurance benefit is payable – the person has elected to claim the Medicare for the service, and not the private health insurance benefit. <p><i>- to a maximum of eight GROUP SERVICES (including services in items 81105, 81115 and 81125) in a calendar year.</i> Fee: \$19.90 Benefit: 85% = \$16.95 Extended Medicare Safety Net Cap: \$59.70</p>

PART 4
FOLLOW-UP ALLIED HEALTH SERVICES FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLES WHO HAVE HAD A HEALTH ASSESSMENT
(MBS ITEMS 81300 TO 81360)

4.1 ELIGIBLE PATIENTS

Items 81300 to 81360 can be accessed by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who have had a health assessment. A person who is of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent may be referred by their GP for allied health services under these items when the GP has undertaken a health assessment and identified a need for allied health services.

The items are similar to the individual allied health items (MBS items 10950 to 10970) available to patients who have a chronic or terminal medical condition and complex care needs and have a GP Management Plan and Team Care Arrangements prepared by their GP. However, items 81300 to 81360 provide an alternative pathway for Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander peoples to access allied health services, and they can be accessed in addition to the individual allied health services for patients with a chronic medical condition and complex care needs (MBS items 10950 to 10970).

Items 81300 to 81360 do not apply to an admitted patient of a hospital.

4.2 SERVICES AVAILABLE UNDER MEDICARE

Medicare benefits are available for up to five allied health services per eligible patient, per calendar year. Services must be of at least 20 minutes duration and the allied health professional must personally attend the patient. The five allied health services can be made up of one type of service (e.g. five physiotherapy services) or a combination of different types of services (e.g. one dietetic, two podiatry and two physiotherapy services).

The annual limit of five follow-up allied health services per patient under items 81300 to 81360 is in addition to the individual allied health services for patients with a chronic medical condition and complex care needs (MBS items 10950 to 10970).

4.3 ELIGIBLE ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

Items 81300 to 81360 can only be claimed for services provided by eligible allied health professionals who are registered with Medicare Australia.

Allied health professionals already registered with Medicare (e.g. for items 10950 to 10970) do not need to register again to claim these items.

Specific eligibility requirements for allied health professionals providing services under these items are:

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner must be registered with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia.

Aboriginal health worker in a State or Territory other than the Northern Territory must have been awarded either:

- c. a Certificate III in Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care (or an equivalent or higher qualification) by a registered training organisation; or
- d. a Certificate III in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (or an equivalent or higher qualification) by a registered training organisation before 1 July 2012.

Note: Where individuals consider their qualification to be equivalent to or higher than the qualifications listed above, they will need to contact a registered training organisation in their State or Territory to have the qualification assessed as such before they can register with Medicare Australia. In the Northern Territory, a practitioner must be registered with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia.

Audiologist must be either a 'Full Member' of the Audiological Society of Australia Inc (ASA), who holds a 'Certificate of Clinical Practice' issued by the ASA; or an 'Ordinary Member – Audiologist' or 'Fellow Audiologist' of the Australian College of Audiology (ACAud).

Chiropractor must be registered with the Chiropractic Board of Australia.

Diabetes educator must be a Credentialed Diabetes Educator (CDE) as credentialed by the Australian Diabetes Educators Association (ADEA).

Dietitian must be an 'Accredited Practising Dietitian' as recognised by the Dietitians Association of Australia (DAA).

Exercise physiologist must be an 'Accredited Exercise Physiologist' as accredited by Exercise and Sports Science Australia (ESSA).

Mental health worker

'Mental health' can include services provided by members of any of the five following professional groups:

- psychologists;
- mental health nurses;
- occupational therapists;
- social workers;
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners / Aboriginal health workers.

Psychologists, occupational therapists, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners and Aboriginal health workers are eligible in separate categories for these items.

Mental health nurse must be a credentialed mental health nurse, as certified by the Australian College of Mental Health Nurses.

Social worker must be a 'Member' of the Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW) and be certified by AASW as meeting the standards for mental health set out in the document published by AASW titled 'Practice Standards for Mental Health Social Workers' as in force on 8 November 2008.

Occupational therapist must be registered with the Occupational Therapy Board of Australia.

Osteopath must be registered with the Osteopathy Board of Australia.

Physiotherapist must be registered with the Physiotherapy Board of Australia.

Podiatrist must be registered with the Podiatry Board of Australia.

Psychologist must hold General Registration with the Psychology Board of Australia.

Speech pathologist must be a 'Practising Member' of Speech Pathology Australia.

Note: A transitional provision is in place to ensure that speech pathologists in Queensland, who will be required to be practising members of Speech Pathology Australia when the regulation of speech pathology in Queensland is abolished, does not disrupt the provision of Medicare rebateable services to patients. Until 31 August 2013, anyone who was a speech pathologist in Queensland in relation to a speech pathology health service on 30 April 2013 will be taken to be a speech pathologist in relation to those services.

4.4 REFERRAL REQUIREMENTS

For Medicare benefits to be payable, the patient must be referred to an eligible allied health professional by their GP using the 'Referral Form for Follow-up Allied Health Services under Medicare for Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Peoples' that has been issued by the Department of Health and Ageing or a referral form that contains all the components of this form. The referral form can be downloaded from the Department of Health and Ageing website at www.health.gov.au/mbsprimarycareitems

GPs may use one referral form to refer patients for single or multiple services of the same service type (e.g. five dietetic services). If referring a patient for single or multiple services of different service types (e.g. two dietetic services and three podiatry services), a separate referral form will be needed for each service type.

A referral is valid for the stated number of services. If all services are not used during the calendar year in which the patient was referred, the unused services can be used in the next calendar year. However, those services will be counted as part of the five rebates for allied health services available to the patient during that calendar year.

When patients have used all of their referred services they will need to obtain a new referral from their GP.

The patient will need to present the referral form to the allied health professional at the first consultation, unless the GP has previously provided it directly to the allied health professional.

It is recommended that allied health professionals retain the referral form for 24 months from the date the service was rendered (for Medicare Australia auditing purposes).

A copy of the referral form is not required to accompany Medicare claims.

A copy of the referral form does not need to be sent to the Department of Health and Ageing.

4.5 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Where an allied health professional provides a *single* service to the patient under referral, the allied health professional must provide a written report back to the referring GP after that service.

Where an allied health professional provides *multiple* services to the same patient under referral, the allied health professional must provide a written report back to the referring GP after the first and last services, or more often if clinically necessary.

Written reports should include:

- any investigations, tests, and/or assessments carried out on the patient;
- any treatment provided; and
- proposed future management of the patient's condition or problem.

4.6 FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information refer to www.health.gov.au/mbsonline or visit www.health.gov.au/mbsprimarycareitems

ITEM DESCRIPTORS

MISCELLANEOUS	MISCELLANEOUS
	GROUP M11 - ALLIED HEALTH SERVICES FOR INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS WHO HAVE HAD A HEALTH CHECK
81300	<p>ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HEALTH SERVICE Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health service provided to a person who is of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent by an eligible Aboriginal health worker or eligible Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) a medical practitioner has undertaken a health assessment and identified a need for follow-up allied health services; and (b) the person is referred to the eligible Aboriginal health worker or eligible Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner by a medical practitioner using a referral form that has been issued by the Department or a referral form that substantially complies with the form issued by the Department; and (c) the person is not an admitted patient of a hospital; and (d) the service is provided to the person individually and in person; and (e) the service is of at least 20 minutes duration; and (f) after the service, the eligible Aboriginal health worker or eligible Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner gives a written report to the referring medical practitioner mentioned in paragraph (b): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) if the service is the only service under the referral – in relation to that service; or (ii) if the service is the first or the last service under the referral – in relation to the service; or (iii) if neither subparagraph (i) nor (ii) applies but the service involves matters that the referring medical practitioner would reasonably be expected to be informed of – in relation to those matters <p><i>- to a maximum of five services (including services to which items 81300 to 81360 inclusive apply) in a calendar year</i></p> <p>Fee: \$62.25 Benefit: 85% = \$52.95 Extended Medicare Safety Net Cap: \$186.75</p>
81305	<p>DIABETES EDUCATION Diabetes education health service provided to a person who is of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent by an eligible diabetes educator if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) a medical practitioner has undertaken a health assessment and identified a need for follow-up allied health services; and (b) the person is referred to the eligible diabetes educator by a medical practitioner using a referral form that has been issued by the Department or a referral form that substantially complies with the form issued by the Department; and (c) the person is not an admitted patient of a hospital; and (d) the service is provided to the person individually and in person; and (e) the service is of at least 20 minutes duration; and (f) after the service, the eligible diabetes educator gives a written report to the referring medical practitioner mentioned in paragraph (b): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) if the service is the only service under the referral – in relation to that service; or (ii) if the service is the first or the last service under the referral – in relation to the service; or (iii) if neither subparagraph (i) nor (ii) applies but the service involves matters that the referring medical practitioner would reasonably be expected to be informed of – in relation to those matters <p><i>- to a maximum of five services (including services to which items 81300 to 81360 inclusive apply) in a calendar year</i></p> <p>Fee: \$62.25 Benefit: 85% = \$52.95 Extended Medicare Safety Net Cap: \$186.75</p>

SPEECH PATHOLOGY

Speech pathology health service provided to a person who is of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent by an eligible speech pathologist if:

- (a) a medical practitioner has undertaken a health assessment and identified a need for follow-up allied health services; and
- (b) the person is referred to the eligible speech pathologist by a medical practitioner using a referral form that has been issued by the Department or a referral form that substantially complies with the form issued by the Department; and
- (c) the person is not an admitted patient of a hospital; and
- (d) the service is provided to the person individually and in person; and
- (e) the service is of at least 20 minutes duration; and
- (f) after the service, the eligible speech pathologist gives a written report to the referring medical practitioner mentioned in paragraph (b):
 - (i) if the service is the only service under the referral – in relation to that service; or
 - (ii) if the service is the first or the last service under the referral – in relation to the service; or
 - (iii) if neither subparagraph (i) nor (ii) applies but the service involves matters that the referring medical practitioner would reasonably be expected to be informed of – in relation to those matters

- to a maximum of five services (including services to which items 81300 to 81360 inclusive apply) in a calendar year.

Fee: \$62.25

Benefit: 85% = \$52.95

81360

Extended Medicare Safety Net Cap: \$186.75

PART 5
PSYCHOLOGICAL THERAPY SERVICES
(MBS ITEMS 80000 TO 80020)

5.1 ELIGIBLE PATIENTS

Items 80000 to 80020 (inclusive) apply to people with an assessed mental disorder and where the patient is:

- referred by a GP who is managing the patient under a GP Mental Health Treatment Plan (item 2700, 2701, 2715 or 2717); or
- referred by a medical practitioner (including a general practitioner, but not a specialist or consultant physician) who is managing the patient under a referred psychiatrist assessment and management plan (item 291); or
- on referral by a psychiatrist or paediatrician from an eligible service.

The conditions classified as mental disorders for the purposes of these services are informed by the World Health Organisation, 1996, Diagnostic and Management Guidelines for Mental Disorders in Primary Care: ICD-10 Chapter V Primary Care Version. For the purposes of these items, dementia, delirium, tobacco use disorder and mental retardation are not regarded as a mental disorder.

The patient will not be eligible if they have not been appropriately referred and a relevant Medicare service provided to them. If the referring service has not yet been claimed, Medicare Australia will not be aware of the patient's eligibility. In this case the patient or the clinical psychologist (with the patient's permission) should contact the referring practitioner to ensure the relevant service has been provided to the patient.

5.2 SERVICES AVAILABLE UNDER MEDICARE

5.2.1. Eligible psychological therapy services

There are five MBS items (80000, 80005, 80010, 80015, 80020) for the provision of psychological therapy services to eligible patients by a clinical psychologist. The clinical psychologists must meet the provider eligibility requirements set out at 5.3.1 and be registered with Medicare Australia.

Services provided under the Psychological Therapy items will not attract a Medicare rebate unless:

- a referral has been made by a GP who is managing the patient under a GP Mental Health Treatment Plan (item 2700, 2701, 2715 or 2717); or
- a referral has been made by a medical practitioner (including a GP) who is managing the patient under a referred psychiatrist assessment and management plan (item 291); or
- a referral has been made by a psychiatrist or paediatrician from an eligible psychiatric or paediatric service (see Referral Requirements for further details regarding psychiatrist and paediatrician referrals).

5.2.2 Number of services per year

Medicare rebates are available for up to ten **individual** allied mental health services in a calendar year. These ten services may consist of:

- GP Focussed Psychological Strategies (FPS) services (items 2721 to 2727); and/or
- Psychological therapy services (items 80000 to 80015); and/or
- FPS allied mental health services (items 80100 to 80115; 80125 to 80140; 80150 to 80165).

In addition, the referring practitioner may consider that in exceptional circumstances the patient may require an additional six services above those already provided (to a maximum total of 16 individual services per patient from 1 March 2012 to 31 December 2012).

Note: Patients will be able to receive an additional six individual allied mental health services under exceptional circumstances from 1 March 2012 to 31 December 2012. From 1 January 2013 the number of individual allied mental health services for which a person can receive a Medicare rebate will be ten services per calendar year.

Exceptional circumstances are defined as a significant change in the patient's clinical condition or care circumstances which make it appropriate and necessary to increase the maximum number of services.

It is up to the referring practitioner to determine that the patient meets these requirements. In these cases a new referral should be provided, and exceptional circumstances noted in that referral. Invoices for services provided under exceptional circumstances must state that exceptional circumstances apply.

Referrals should be provided, as required, for an initial course of treatment (a maximum of six services but may be less depending on the referral and the patient's clinical need) to a maximum of ten services per calendar year (up to 16 services from 1 March 2012 to 31 December 2012 where exceptional circumstances apply). For the purposes of these services, a course of treatment will consist of the number of services stated in the patient's referral (up to a maximum of six in any one referral).

Patients will also be eligible to claim up to ten separate services within a calendar year for **group** therapy services involving a minimum of 6 and a maximum of 10 patients to which items 80020 (psychological therapy – clinical psychologist), 80120 (FPS services – psychologist), 80145 (FPS services – occupational therapist) and 80170 (FPS services – social worker) apply. These group services are separate from the individual services and do not count towards the ten services per calendar year maximum associated with those items.

Services provided under the Access to Allied Psychological Services (ATAPS) should not be used in addition to the ten (up to 16 services from 1 March 2012 to 31 December 2012 where exceptional circumstances apply) psychological therapy services (items 80000 to 80020), focussed psychological services-allied mental health services (items 80100 to 80170 or GP focussed psychological strategies services - items 2721 to 2727) available under the *Better Access to Psychiatrists, Psychologists and General Practitioners through the Medicare Benefits Schedule* initiative per calendar year. Psychologists delivering services under the ATAPS program should refer to the ATAPS Operational Guidelines.

5.2.3 Service length and type

Services provided by eligible clinical psychologists under these items must be within the time period specified in the item descriptor. The clinical psychologist must personally attend the patient.

It is expected that professional attendances at places other than consulting rooms would be provided where treatment in other environments is necessary to achieve therapeutic outcomes.

In addition to psycho-education, it is recommended that cognitive-behaviour therapy be provided. However, other evidence-based therapies, such as interpersonal therapy, may be used if considered clinically relevant.

5.3 ELIGIBLE ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

5.3.1 Eligible clinical psychologists

All consultations providing psychological therapy services must be rendered by a clinical psychologist who holds general registration in the health profession of psychology under the applicable law in force in the State or Territory in which the service is provided, and is:

- (i) a member of the College of Clinical Psychologists of the Australian Psychological Society (APS); or
- (ii) assessed by the APS as meeting the requirements for membership of that College and continues to meet those requirements; or
- (iii) endorsed by the Psychology Board of Australia to practice in clinical psychology.

The clinical psychologist must be registered with Medicare Australia.

5.3.2 Registering with Medicare Australia

Advice about registering with Medicare Australia to provide psychological therapy services using items 80000-80020 inclusive, or general information for providers, is available from the Medicare Australia provider inquiry line on 132 150.

5.4 REFERRAL REQUIREMENTS

5.4.1 Referrals

Patients must be referred for psychological therapy services:

- by a GP managing the patient under a GP Mental Health Treatment Plan (item 2700, 2701, 2715 or 2717); or
- by a medical practitioner (including a GP) who is managing the patient under a referred psychiatrist assessment and management plan (item 291); or
- on referral from a psychiatrist or a paediatrician.

Referrals from psychiatrists and paediatricians must be made from eligible Medicare services. For specialist psychiatrists and paediatricians these services include any of the specialist attendance items 104 through 109. For consultant physician psychiatrists the relevant eligible Medicare services cover any of the consultant psychiatrist items 293 through 370; while for consultant physician paediatricians the eligible services are consultant physician attendance items 110 through 133.

Referring practitioners are not required to use a specific form to refer patients for these services. The referral may be in the form of a letter, or note to an eligible clinical psychologist signed and dated by the referring practitioner.

The clinical psychologist must be in receipt of the referral at the first allied mental health consultation. It is recommended that the clinical psychologist retain the referral for 24 months from the date the service was rendered (for Medicare Australia auditing purposes).

A copy of the referral form does not need to be sent to the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing.

5.4.2 Referral validity

If a patient has not used all of their psychological therapy services and/or FPS services under a referral in a calendar year, it is not necessary to obtain a new referral for the “unused” services. However, any “unused” services received from 1 January in the following year under that referral will count as part of the total of ten services for which the patient is eligible in that calendar year.

When patients have used all of their referred services they will need to obtain a new referral from the referring practitioner if they are eligible for further services. Where the patient’s care is being managed by a GP, the GP may choose to use this visit to undertake a review of the patient's GP Mental Health Treatment Plan and/or psychiatrist assessment and management plan.

It is not necessary to have a new GP Mental Health Treatment Plan and/or a psychiatrist assessment and management plan prepared each calendar year in order to access a new referral(s) for eligible psychological therapy services and/or FPS services. Patients continue to be eligible for rebates for psychological therapy services and/or FPS services while they are being managed under a GP Mental Health Treatment Plan and/or a psychiatrist assessment and management plan, as long as the need for eligible services continues to be recommended.

5.5 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Patients are eligible to receive up to ten **individual** services (up to 16 services from 1 March 2012 to 31 December 2012 where exceptional circumstances apply) and up to ten **group** sessions in a calendar year.

Within the maximum service allocation, the clinical psychologist can provide one or more courses of treatment. For the purposes of these services, a course of treatment will consist of the number of services stated in the patient’s referral (up to a maximum of six in any one referral). This enables the referring medical practitioner to consider a report from the clinical psychologist on the services provided to the patient, and the need for further treatment.

On completion of the initial course of treatment, the clinical psychologist must provide a written report to the referring medical practitioner, which includes information on:

- assessments carried out on the patient;
- treatment provided; and
- recommendations on future management of the patient's disorder.

A written report must also be provided to the referring medical practitioner at the completion of any subsequent course(s) of treatment provided to the patient.

Following receipt of this report, the referring practitioner will consider the need for further treatment, before further allied mental health services may be provided.

5.6 FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information refer to the explanatory notes for these items in the *Medicare Benefits Schedule* (MBS) which can be found at www.health.gov.au/mbsonline

CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY – GROUP SERVICE

Professional attendance for the purpose of providing psychological therapy for a mental disorder by a **clinical psychologist** registered with Medicare Australia as meeting the credentialing requirements for provision of this service, lasting for at least 60 minutes duration where the patients are referred by a medical practitioner, as part of a GP Mental Health Treatment Plan; or referred by a medical practitioner (including a general practitioner, but not a specialist or consultant physician) who is managing the patient under a referred psychiatrist assessment and management plan; or referred by a specialist or consultant physician in the practice of his or her field of psychiatry or paediatrics.

These therapies are time limited, being deliverable in up to ten planned sessions in a calendar year (including services to which items 80120, 80145 and 80170 apply).

GROUP THERAPY with a group of 6 to 10 patients, EACH PATIENT

Fee: \$37.20

Benefit: 85% = \$31.65

80020

Extended Medicare Safety Net Cap: \$111.60

PART 6
FOCUSSED PSYCHOLOGICAL STRATEGIES
(MBS ITEMS 80100 TO 80170)

6.1 ELIGIBLE PATIENTS

The Focussed Psychological Strategies (FPS) items 80100 to 80170 (inclusive) apply to people with an assessed mental disorder and where the patient:

- is referred by a GP who is managing the patient under a GP Mental Health Treatment Plan (item 2700, 2701, 2715 or 2717); or
- is referred by a medical practitioner (including a GP) who is managing the patient under a referred psychiatrist assessment and management plan (item 291); or
- on referral by a psychiatrist or paediatrician from an eligible service.

The conditions classified as mental disorders for the purposes of these services are informed by the World Health Organisation, 1996, Diagnostic and Management Guidelines for Mental Disorders in Primary Care: ICD-10 Chapter V Primary Care Version. For the purposes of these items, dementia, delirium, tobacco use disorder and mental retardation are not regarded as a mental disorder.

The patient will not be eligible if they have not been appropriately referred and a relevant Medicare service provided to them. If the referring service has not yet been claimed, Medicare Australia will not be aware of the patient's eligibility. In this case the allied health professional (with the patient's permission) or patient should contact the referring practitioner to ensure the relevant service has been provided to the patient.

6.2 SERVICES AVAILABLE UNDER MEDICARE

6.2.1 Eligible FPS services

There are fifteen MBS items for the provision of FPS services to eligible patients by allied health professionals:

- 80100, 80105, 80110, 80115 and 80120 for provision of FPS services by a psychologist;
- 80125, 80130, 80135, 80140 and 80145 for provision of FPS services by an occupational therapist; and
- 80150, 80155, 80160, 80165 and 80170 for provision of FPS services by a social worker.

The allied health professional must meet the provider eligibility requirements set out at 6.3 and be registered with Medicare Australia.

Services provided under the FPS – allied mental health items will not attract a Medicare rebate unless:

- a referral has been made by a GP who is managing the patient under a GP Mental Health Treatment Plan (item 2700, 2701, 2715 or 2717); or
- a referral has been made by a medical practitioner (including a GP) who is managing the patient under a referred psychiatrist assessment and management plan (item 291); or

- a referral has been made by a psychiatrist or paediatrician from an eligible psychiatric or paediatric service (see Referral Requirements for further details regarding psychiatrist and paediatrician referrals).

6.2.2 Number of services per year

Medicare rebates are available for up to ten individual allied health services in a calendar year. These ten services may consist of:

- GP Focussed Psychological Strategies (FPS) services (items 2721 to 2727); and/or
- Psychological therapy services (items 80000 to 80015); and/or
- FPS allied mental health services (items 80100 to 80115; 80125 to 80140; 80150 to 80165).

In addition, the referring practitioner may consider that in exceptional circumstances the patient may require an additional six services above those already provided (to a maximum total of 16 individual services per patient from 1 March 2012 to 31 December 2012).

Note: Patients will be able to receive an additional six individual allied mental health services under exceptional circumstances from 1 March 2012 to 31 December 2012. From 1 January 2013 the number of individual allied mental health services for which a person can receive a Medicare rebate will be ten services per calendar year.

Exceptional circumstances are defined as a significant change in the patient's clinical condition or care circumstances which make it appropriate and necessary to increase the maximum number of services.

It is up to the referring practitioner to determine that the patient meets these requirements. In these cases a new referral should be provided, and exceptional circumstances noted in that referral. Invoices for services provided under exceptional circumstances must state that exceptional circumstances apply.

Referrals should be provided, as required, for an initial course of treatment (a maximum of six services but may be less depending on the referral and the patient's clinical need) to a maximum of 10 services per calendar year (up to 16 services from 1 March 2012 to 31 December 2012 where exceptional circumstances apply). For the purposes of these services, a course of treatment will consist of the number of services stated in the patient's referral (up to a maximum of six in any one referral).

Patients will also be eligible to claim up to ten separate services within a calendar year for group therapy services involving a minimum of 6 and up to 10 patients to which items 80020 (psychological therapy – clinical psychologist), 80120 (FPS services – psychologist), 80145 (FPS services – occupational therapist) and 80170 (FPS services - social worker) apply. These group services are separate from the individual services and do not count towards the ten individual service per calendar year maximum associated with those items.

Services provided under the Access to Allied Psychological Services (ATAPS) should not be used in addition to the ten (up to 16 services from 1 March 2012 to 31 December 2012 where exceptional circumstances apply) psychological therapy services (items 80000 to 80020), focussed psychological services-allied mental health services (items 80100 to 80170 or GP focussed psychological strategies services (items 2721 to 2727) available under the *Better Access to Psychiatrists, Psychologists and General Practitioners through the Medicare*

Benefits Schedule initiative per calendar year. Allied Mental health professionals delivering services under the ATAPS program should refer to the ATAPS Operational Guidelines.

6.2.3 Service length and type

Services provided by eligible allied health professionals under these items must be within the specified time period within the item descriptor. The allied health professional must personally attend the patient.

It is expected that professional attendances at places other than consulting rooms would be provided where treatment in other environments is necessary to achieve therapeutic outcomes.

A range of acceptable strategies has been approved for use by allied mental health professionals utilising the FPS items.

These are:

1. Psycho-education
(including motivational interviewing)
2. Cognitive-behavioural Therapy including:
 - a) Behavioural interventions
 - Behaviour modification
 - Exposure techniques
 - Activity scheduling
 - b) Cognitive interventions
 - Cognitive therapy
3. Relaxation strategies
 - Progressive muscle relaxation
 - Controlled breathing
4. Skills training
 - Problem solving skills and training
 - Anger management
 - Social skills training
 - Communication training
 - Stress management
 - Parent management training
5. Interpersonal Therapy (especially for depression)
6. Narrative therapy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

6.3 ELIGIBLE ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

A person is an allied health professional in relation to the provision of a FPS service if:

- (a) the person holds general registration in the health profession of psychology under the applicable law in force in the State or Territory in which the service is provided; or
- (b) the person is a member of the Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW) and certified by AASW as meeting the standards for mental health set out in the document published by AASW titled 'Practice Standards for Mental Health Social Workers', as in force on 8 November 2008; or
- (c) the person:

- (i) is an occupational therapist who is registered as a person who may provide that kind of service under the applicable law in force in the State or Territory in which the service is provided; and
- (ii) is accredited by Occupational Therapy Australia as:
 - having a minimum of two years experience in mental health; and
 - having undertaken to observe the standards set out in the document published by Occupational Therapy Australia ‘Australian Competency Standards for Occupational Therapists in Mental Health’ as in force on 1 November 2006.

6.3.1 Continuing professional development (CPD) for allied mental health professionals providing focussed psychological strategies (FPS) services

From 1 July 2011, allied mental health professionals providing FPS services are required to have completed 10 hours FPS CPD since 1 July 2009 and then annually. From 1 July 2011, allied mental health professionals who have not completed the 10 hours of FPS CPD will no longer be eligible to provide FPS Medicare Services.

Part-time allied mental health professionals are required to have 10 hours of FPS related CPD, the same as full-time allied mental health professionals.

For allied mental health professionals who are registered during the course of the CPD year, their obligation to undertake CPD will be on a pro-rata basis. The amount of units will be calculated from the 1st of the month immediately succeeding the month they obtained initial registration. The obligation will be one-twelfth of the yearly requirement for each month.

CPD activities must be relevant to delivering FPS services. Acceptable CPD activities where the content is related to FPS can include formal postgraduate education, workshops, seminars, lectures, journal reading, writing papers, receipt of supervision and peer consultation, and online training.

There is flexibility in the CPD activities that can be undertaken to meet individual professional needs and their practice/client base and client needs. For example, activities could also include assessment and treatment of specific disorders and client types such as youth, or different modalities and delivery such as working with groups.

6.4 REFERRAL REQUIREMENTS (GPS, PSYCHIATRISTS OR PAEDIATRICIANS TO ALLIED MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS)

6.4.1 Referrals

Patients must be referred for FPS services by a medical practitioner managing the patient under:

- a GP Mental Health Treatment Plan (item 2700, 2701, 2715 or 2717); or
- a medical practitioner (including a GP) who is managing the patient under a referred psychiatrist assessment and management plan (item 291); or
- on referral from a psychiatrist or a paediatrician.

Referrals from psychiatrists and paediatricians must be made from eligible Medicare services. For specialist psychiatrists and paediatricians these services include any of the specialist attendance items 104 through 109. For consultant physician psychiatrists the relevant eligible

Medicare services cover any of the consultant psychiatrist items 293 through 370. For consultant physician paediatricians the eligible services are consultant physician attendance items 110 through 133.

Referring practitioners are not required to use a specific form to refer patients for these services. The referral may be in the form of a letter, or note to an eligible allied mental health professional signed and dated by the referring practitioner.

The allied mental health professional must be in receipt of the referral at the first allied mental health consultation. It is recommended that the allied mental health professional retain the referral for 24 months from the date the service was rendered (for Medicare Australia auditing purposes).

A copy of the referral form does not need to be sent to the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing.

6.4.2 Referral validity

If a patient has not used all of their psychological therapy services and/or FPS services under a referral in a calendar year, it is not necessary to obtain a new referral for the “unused” services. However, any “unused” services received from 1 January in the following year under that referral will count as part of the total of ten services for which the patient is eligible in that calendar year.

When patients have used all of their referred services they will need to obtain a new referral from the referring practitioner if they are eligible for further services. Where the patient’s care is being managed by a GP, the GP may choose to use this visit to undertake a review of the patient’s GP Mental Health Treatment Plan and/or psychiatrist assessment and management plan.

It is not necessary to have a new GP Mental Health Treatment Plan and/or a psychiatrist assessment and management plan prepared each calendar year in order to access a new referral(s) for eligible psychological therapy services and/or FPS services. Patients continue to be eligible for rebates for psychological therapy services and/or FPS services while they are being managed under a GP Mental Health Treatment Plan and/or a psychiatrist assessment and management plan, as long as the need for eligible services continues to be recommended.

6.5 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Patients are eligible to receive up to ten **individual** services (up to 16 services from 1 March 2012 to 31 December 2012 where exceptional circumstances apply) and up to ten **group** sessions in a calendar year.

Within the maximum service allocation, the allied health professional can provide one or more courses of treatment. For the purposes of these services, a course of treatment will consist of the number of services stated in the patient’s referral (up to a maximum of six in any one referral). This enables the referring medical practitioner to consider a report from the allied mental health professional on the services provided to the patient, and the need for further treatment.

On completion of the initial course of treatment, the allied mental health professional must provide a written report to the referring medical practitioner, which includes information on:

- assessments carried out on the patient;
- treatment provided; and
- recommendations on future management of the patient's disorder.

A written report must also be provided to the referring medical practitioner at the completion of any subsequent course(s) of treatment provided to the patient.

Following receipt of this report, the referring practitioner will consider the need for further treatment, before further allied health services may be provided.

6.6 FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information refer to the explanatory notes for these items in the *Medicare Benefits Schedule* (MBS) which can be found at www.health.gov.au/mbsonline

80140	<p>OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY Professional attendance at a place other than consulting rooms.</p> <p>As per the occupational therapist service requirements outlined for item 80135.</p> <p>Fee: \$113.35 Benefit: 85% = \$96.35 Extended Medicare Safety Net Cap: \$340.05</p>
80145	<p>OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY – GROUP SERVICE Professional attendance for the purpose of providing focussed psychological strategies services for an assessed mental disorder by an occupational therapist registered with Medicare Australia as meeting the credentialing requirements for provision of this service, lasting for at least 60 minutes duration where the patients are referred by a medical practitioner, as part of a GP Mental Health Treatment Plan; or referred by a medical practitioner (including a general practitioner, but not a specialist or consultant physician) who is managing the patient under a referred psychiatrist assessment and management plan; or referred by a specialist or consultant physician in the practice of his or her field of psychiatry or paediatrics.</p> <p>These therapies are time limited, being deliverable in up to ten planned sessions in a calendar year (including services to which items 80020, 80120 and 80170 apply).</p> <p>GROUP THERAPY with a group of 6 to 10 patients, EACH PATIENT</p> <p>Fee: \$22.35 Benefit: 85% = \$19.00 Extended Medicare Safety Net Cap: \$67.05</p>
80150	<p>SOCIAL WORKER Professional attendance for the purpose of providing focussed psychological strategies services for an assessed mental disorder by a social worker registered with Medicare Australia as meeting the credentialing requirements for provision of this service - lasting more than 20 minutes, but not more than 50 minutes - where the patient is referred by a medical practitioner, as part of a GP Mental Health Treatment Plan; or referred by a medical practitioner (including a general practitioner, but not a specialist or consultant physician) who is managing the patient under a referred psychiatrist assessment and management plan; or referred by a specialist or consultant physician in the practice of his or her field of psychiatry or paediatrics.</p> <p>These services are time limited, being deliverable in up to ten planned sessions in a calendar year (including services to which items 2721 to 2727; 80000 to 80015; 80100 to 80115; 80125 to 80140; 80150 to 80165 apply).</p> <p>Claims for this service may exceed this maximum session limit, however, where exceptional circumstances apply (to a maximum total of 16 individual services per patient from 1 March 2012 to 31 December 2012).</p> <p>(Professional attendance at consulting rooms)</p> <p>Fee: \$ 62.25 Benefit: 85% = \$52.95 Extended Medicare Safety Net Cap: \$186.75</p>
80155	<p>SOCIAL WORKER Professional attendance at a place other than consulting rooms.</p> <p>As per the social worker service requirements outlined for item 80150.</p> <p>Fee: \$87.70 Benefit: 85% = \$74.55 Extended Medicare Safety Net Cap: \$263.10</p>

80160	<p>SOCIAL WORKER Professional attendance for the purpose of providing focussed psychological strategies services for an assessed mental disorder by a social worker registered with Medicare Australia as meeting the credentialing requirements for provision of this service - lasting more than 50 minutes - where the patient is referred by a medical practitioner, as part of a GP Mental Health Treatment Plan; or referred by a medical practitioner (including a general practitioner, but not a specialist or consultant physician) who is managing the patient under a referred psychiatrist assessment and management plan; or referred by a specialist or consultant physician in the practice of his or her field of psychiatry or paediatrics.</p> <p>These services are time limited, being deliverable in up to ten planned sessions in a calendar year (including services to which items 2721 to 2727; 80000 to 80015; 80100 to 80115; 80125 to 80140; 80150 to 80165 apply).</p> <p>Claims for this service may exceed this maximum session limit, however, where exceptional circumstances apply (to a maximum total of 16 individual services per patient from 1 March 2012 to 31 December 2012).</p> <p>(Professional attendance at consulting rooms)</p> <p>Fee: \$87.95 Benefit: 85% = \$74.80 Extended Medicare Safety Net Cap: \$263.85</p>
80165	<p>SOCIAL WORKER Professional attendance at a place other than consulting rooms.</p> <p>As per the social worker service requirements outlined for item 80160.</p> <p>Fee: \$113.35 Benefit: 85% = \$96.35 Extended Medicare Safety Net Cap: \$340.05</p>
80170	<p>SOCIAL WORKER – GROUP SERVICE Professional attendance for the purpose of providing focussed psychological strategies services for an assessed mental disorder by a social worker registered with Medicare Australia as meeting the credentialing requirements for provision of this service, lasting for at least 60 minutes duration where the patients are referred by a medical practitioner, as part of a GP Mental Health Treatment Plan; or referred by a medical practitioner (including a general practitioner, but not a specialist or consultant physician) who is managing the patient under a referred psychiatrist assessment and management plan; or referred by a specialist or consultant physician in the practice of his or her field of psychiatry or paediatrics.</p> <p>These therapies are time limited, being deliverable in up to ten planned sessions in a calendar year (including services to which items 80020, 80120 and 80145 apply).</p> <p>GROUP THERAPY with a group of 6 to 10 patients, EACH PATIENT</p> <p>Fee: \$ 22.35 Benefit: 85% = \$19.00 Extended Medicare Safety Net Cap: \$67.05</p>

PART 7
PREGNANCY SUPPORT COUNSELLING
(MBS ITEMS 81000 TO 81010)

7.1 ELIGIBLE PATIENTS

Medicare benefits are available for non-directive pregnancy support counselling services provided to women who are concerned about a current pregnancy, or a pregnancy that occurred in the preceding 12 months. Services can be provided either by an eligible GP or by an eligible psychologist, social worker or mental health nurse on referral from a GP.

7.2 SERVICES AVAILABLE UNDER MEDICARE

There are four MBS items for the provision of non-directive pregnancy support counselling services:

- Item 4001 – services provided by an eligible GP;
- Item 81000 – services provided by an eligible psychologist;
- Item 81005 – services provided by an eligible social worker; and
- Item 81010 – services provided by an eligible mental health nurse.

7.2.1 Number of services per year

Medicare benefits are available for up to three eligible non-directive pregnancy support counselling services per patient, per pregnancy.

7.2.2 Service length and type

Non-directive pregnancy support counselling services provided by eligible psychologists, social workers and mental health nurses using items 81000 to 81010 inclusive must be of at least 30 minutes duration and provided to an individual patient. The allied health professional must personally attend the patient. The items may be used to address any pregnancy related issues for which non-directive counselling is appropriate.

The service involves the psychologist, social worker or mental health nurse undertaking a safe, confidential process that helps the patient explore concerns they have about a current pregnancy or a pregnancy that occurred in the preceding 12 months. This includes providing, on request, unbiased, evidence-based information about all options and services available to the patient.

Non-directive counselling is a form of counselling which is based on the understanding that, in many situations, people can resolve their own problems without being provided with a solution by the counsellor. The counsellor's role is to encourage the person to express their feelings but not suggest what decision the person should make. By listening and reflecting back what the person reveals to them, the counsellor helps them to explore and understand their feelings. With this understanding, the person is able to make the decision that is best for them.

7.3 ELIGIBLE ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

The allied health items (81000 to 81010) can only be claimed for services provided by eligible allied health professionals who are registered with Medicare Australia. To register

with Medicare Australia to provide these services, allied health professionals must meet the specific eligibility requirements detailed below.

A person is an allied health professional in relation to the provision of non-directive pregnancy support counselling health service if the person meets one of the following requirements:

- (a) the person is certified by the Australian College of Mental Health Nurses:
 - (i) as a credentialed mental health nurse, and
 - (ii) as appropriately trained in non-directive pregnancy counselling;
- (b) the person holds general registration in the health profession of psychology under the applicable law in force in the State or Territory in which the service is provided and is certified by the Australian Psychological Society as appropriately trained in non-directive pregnancy counselling;
- (c) the person is:
 - (i) a member of the Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW); and
 - (ii) certified by AASW either as meeting the standards for mental health set out in the document published by that Association titled 'Practice Standards for Mental Health Social Workers', as in force on 8 November 2008 or as an accredited social worker; and
 - (iii) certified by AASW as appropriately trained in non-directive pregnancy counselling.

For this health service, a person is appropriately trained in non-directive pregnancy counselling if the person has undergone training outlined in the "Medicare benefits for non-directive pregnancy support counselling services" fact sheet available at <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/health-pcd-pregnancy-support>

7.3.1 Registering with Medicare Australia

Advice about registering with Medicare Australia to provide non-directive pregnancy support counselling services using items 81000-81010 inclusive is available from the Medicare Australia provider inquiry line on 132 150.

7.4 REFERRAL REQUIREMENTS

Patients must be referred by a GP for non-directive pregnancy support counselling services. GPs are not required to use a specific form to refer patients for these services. The referral may be a letter or note to an eligible allied health professional signed and dated by the referring GP.

Patients may be referred by a GP to more than one eligible allied health professional for non-directive pregnancy support counselling services (for example, where a patient does not wish to continue receiving services from the provider they were referred to in the first instance). However, Medicare benefits are only available for a maximum of three non-directive pregnancy support counselling services to which items 4001, 81000, 81005 and 81010 apply, per patient, per pregnancy.

Where the patient is unsure of the number of Medicare rebated non-directive pregnancy support counselling services they have already accessed, the patient may check with Medicare Australia on 132 011. The psychologist, social worker or mental health nurse may check with Medicare Australia on 132 150.

The relevant allied health professional must be in receipt of the referral at the first non-directive pregnancy support counselling service. It is recommended that they retain the referral for 24 months from the date the service was rendered (for Medicare Australia auditing purposes).

A copy of the referral is not required to accompany Medicare claims. However, referral details are required to be included on patients' itemised accounts/receipts or Medicare assignment of benefit forms.

7.4.2 Referral validity

The referral is valid for up to three non-directive pregnancy support counselling services, per patient, per pregnancy.

7.4.3 Subsequent referrals

A new referral is required where the patient seeks to access non-directive pregnancy support counselling in relation to a different pregnancy or where the patient wishes to be referred to a different allied health professional than the one they were referred to in the first instance.

7.5 FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information refer to www.health.gov.au/mbsonline or visit www.health.gov.au/mbsprimarycareitems

ITEM DESCRIPTORS

MISCELLANEOUS	MISCELLANEOUS
GROUP M8 - PREGNANCY SUPPORT COUNSELLING	
81000	<p>PSYCHOLOGY Provision of a non-directive pregnancy support counselling service to a woman who is concerned about a current pregnancy or a pregnancy that occurred in the preceding 12 months, by an eligible psychologist, where the patient is referred to the psychologist by a medical practitioner (including a general practitioner, but not a specialist or consultant physician), and lasting at least 30 minutes. The service may be used to address any pregnancy related issues for which non-directive counselling is appropriate.</p> <p>This service may be provided by a psychologist who is registered with Medicare Australia as meeting the credentialing requirements for provision of this service. It may not be provided by a psychologist who has a direct pecuniary interest in a health service that has as its primary purpose the provision of services for pregnancy termination.</p> <p>To a maximum of three non-directive pregnancy support counselling services per patient, per pregnancy from any of the following items –81000, 81005, 81010 and 4001</p> <p>Fee: \$73.15 Benefit: 85% = \$62.20 Extended Medicare Safety Net Cap: \$219.45</p>
81005	<p>SOCIAL WORKER Provision of a non-directive pregnancy support counselling service to a woman who is concerned about a current pregnancy or a pregnancy that occurred in the preceding 12 months, by an eligible social worker, where the patient is referred to the social worker by a medical practitioner (including a general practitioner, but not a specialist or consultant physician), and lasting at least 30 minutes. The service may be used to address any pregnancy related issues for which non-directive counselling is appropriate.</p> <p>This service may be provided by a social worker who is registered with Medicare Australia as meeting the credentialing requirements for provision of this service. It may not be provided by a social worker who has a direct pecuniary interest in a health service that has as its primary purpose the provision of services for pregnancy termination.</p> <p>To a maximum of three non-directive pregnancy support counselling services per patient, per pregnancy from any of the following items –81000, 81005, 81010 and 4001</p> <p>Fee: \$73.15 Benefit: 85% = \$62.20 Extended Medicare Safety Net Cap: \$219.45</p>
81010	<p>MENTAL HEALTH NURSE Provision of a non-directive pregnancy support counselling service to a woman who is concerned about a current pregnancy or a pregnancy that occurred in the preceding 12 months, by an eligible mental health nurse, where the patient is referred to the mental health nurse by a medical practitioner (including a general practitioner, but not a specialist or consultant physician), and lasting at least 30 minutes. The service may be used to address any pregnancy related issues for which non-directive counselling is appropriate.</p> <p>This service may be provided by a mental health nurse who is registered with Medicare Australia as meeting the credentialing requirements for provision of this service. It may not be provided by a mental health nurse who has a direct pecuniary interest in a health service that has as its primary purpose the provision of services for pregnancy termination.</p> <p>To a maximum of three non-directive pregnancy support counselling services per patient, per pregnancy from any of the following items - 81000, 81005, 81010 and 4001</p> <p>Fee: \$73.15 Benefit: 85% = \$62.20 Extended Medicare Safety Net Cap: \$219.45</p>

PART 8
CHILDREN WITH AUTISM, PERVASIVE DEVELOPMENTAL DISORDER OR AN
ELIGIBLE DISABILITY
(MBS ITEMS 82000 TO 82035)

8.1 ELIGIBLE PATIENTS

MBS items 82000 to 82035 provide Medicare-rebateable allied health services to children with autism or any other pervasive developmental disorder (PDD) through the *Helping Children with Autism* program, and to children with an eligible disability through the *Better Start for Children with Disability* program. Children with both autism/PDD and an eligible disability can access either program, but not both.

The conditions classified as PDD in 2008 for the purposes of these services were informed by the American Psychiatric Association: *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fourth Edition (DSM-IV-TR)*, Washington, DC, American Psychiatric Association, 2000.

Eligible disabilities for the purpose of these services means any of the following:

- (a) sight impairment that results in vision of less than or equal to 6/18 vision or equivalent field loss in the better eye, with correction;
- (b) hearing impairment that results in:
 - (i) a hearing loss of 40 decibels or greater in the better ear, across four frequencies; or
 - (ii) permanent conductive hearing loss and auditory neuropathy;
- (c) deafblindness.
- (d) cerebral palsy.
- (e) Down syndrome.
- (f) Fragile X syndrome.
- (g) Prader-Willi syndrome.
- (h) Williams syndrome.
- (i) Angelman syndrome.
- (j) Kabuki syndrome.
- (k) Smith-Magenis syndrome.
- (l) CHARGE syndrome.
- (m) Cri du Chat syndrome.
- (n) Cornelia de Lange syndrome.
- (o) microcephaly, if a child has:
 - (i) a head circumference less than the third percentile for age and sex; and
 - (ii) a functional level at or below 2 standard deviations below the mean for age on a standard development test or an IQ score of less than 70 on a standardised test of intelligence.

“standard developmental test” refers to the Bayley Scales of Infant Development or the Griffiths Mental Development Scales; “standardised test of intelligence” means the Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children (WISC) or the Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence (WPPSI). It is up to the clinical judgement of the diagnosing practitioner if other tests are appropriate to be used.

8.2 ALLIED HEALTH SERVICES AVAILABLE UNDER MEDICARE

Items are available for **assessment/diagnosis** services, the results of which can contribute to development of a treatment and management plan by the referring medical practitioner, and for **treatment** services.

The **assessment/diagnosis** items (82000, 82005, 82010, 82030) can be accessed when:

- a child with autism/PDD is aged under 13 years and referred by an eligible consultant psychiatrist or paediatrician; or
- a child with an eligible disability is aged under 13 years and referred by a specialist, consultant physician or GP.

The **treatment** items (82015, 82020, 82025 and 82035) can be accessed when:

- A child with autism/PDD is aged under 15 years and a treatment and management plan has been put in place for them before their 13th birthday, and they have been referred by an eligible consultant psychiatrist or paediatrician.
- A child with an eligible disability is aged under 15 years and a treatment and management plan has been put in place for them before their 13th birthday, and they have been referred by a specialist, consultant physician or GP.

The allied health assessment and treatment services can be provided by eligible audiologists, occupational therapists, optometrists, orthoptists, physiotherapists, psychologists and speech pathologists.

8.2.1 Number of assessment services

Medicare rebates are available for up to four services in total per child, to assist with assessment and diagnosis and development of a treatment plan. The four services may consist of any combination of items 82000, 82005, 82010 and 82030. It is the responsibility of the referring practitioner to allocate these services in keeping with the child's individual needs and to refer the child to appropriate allied health professional(s) accordingly.

These services will not attract a Medicare rebate unless a referral has been made by a consultant psychiatrist (using items 296-370) or paediatrician (using items 110-131) for a child with autism/PDD, or by a specialist or consultant physician (using items 104-131 or 296-370 excluding item 359) or GP (using items 3-51) for a child with a disability.

8.2.2 Number of treatment services

Medicare rebates are available for up to twenty allied health treatment services in total per eligible child. The twenty services may consist of any combination of items 82015, 82020, 82025 and 82035. It is the responsibility of the referring practitioner to allocate these services in keeping with the child's individual treatment needs and to refer the child to appropriate allied health professional(s) accordingly.

These services will not attract a Medicare rebate unless referral has been made by a consultant psychiatrist (using item 289) or paediatrician (using item 135) for children with autism/PDD, or by a specialist or consultant physician (using item 137) or GP for disability (using item 139) for children with disability.

8.2.3 Service length and type

Services under these items must be for the time period specified within the item descriptor. The allied health professional must personally attend the child.

A child may receive up to four Medicare eligible services from an allied health professional on the same day.

It is anticipated that professional attendances at places other than consulting rooms would be provided where treatment in other environments is necessary to achieve therapeutic outcomes.

It is also expected that participating allied health providers will deliver treatment under these items that is consistent with the autism/PDD or disability treatment plan prepared by the medical practitioner, and is in keeping with commonly established autism/PDD or disability interventions as practised by their profession and appropriate for the age and particular needs of the child being treated.

8.3 ELIGIBLE ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

Allied health professionals providing services under these items must be registered with Medicare Australia. To register with Medicare Australia to provide these services, an allied health professional must meet the specific eligibility requirements detailed below:

- **Audiologist** must be either a ‘Full Member’ of the Audiological Society of Australia Inc (ASA), who holds a ‘Certificate of Clinical Practice’ issued by the ASA; or an ‘Ordinary Member – Audiologist’ or ‘Fellow Audiologist’ of the Australian College of Audiology (ACAud).
- **Occupational Therapist** must be registered with the Occupational Therapy Board of Australia.
- **Optometrist** must be registered as an optometrist or optician under a law of a State or an internal Territory that provides for the registration of optometrists or opticians, and be a participating optometrist.
- **Orthoptist** must be registered with the Australian Orthoptic Board and have a Certificate of Currency; and be a member of Orthoptics Australia.
- **Physiotherapist** must be registered with the Physiotherapy Board of Australia.
- **Psychologist** must hold General Registration with the Psychology Board of Australia.
- **Speech Pathologist** must be a ‘Practising Member’ of Speech Pathology Australia.

Note: A transitional provision is in place to ensure that speech pathologists in Queensland, who will be required to be practising members of Speech Pathology Australia when the regulation of speech pathology in Queensland is abolished, does not disrupt the provision of Medicare rebateable services to patients. Until 31 August 2013, anyone who was a speech pathologist in Queensland in relation to a speech pathology health service on 30 April 2013 will be taken to be a speech pathologist in relation to those services.

In addition to meeting the above mentioned credentialing requirements, it is expected that eligible providers will “self-select” for the autism/PDD and disability items (i.e. possess the skills and experience appropriate for provision of these services and be oriented to work with children with autism/PDD or disability).

8.4 REFERRAL REQUIREMENTS

8.4.1 Referrals

An allied health professional wanting to provide any of the items 82000-82035 must be in receipt of a current referral provided by an eligible medical practitioner. Referrals are only valid when prerequisite MBS services have been provided.

An eligible allied health professional can provide **assessment items** (82000, 82005, 82010, and 82030) to a child under the *Helping Children with Autism* program when:

- the child has previously been provided with any MBS service covering items 110 through 131 inclusive by a consultant paediatrician; or
- the child has previously been provided with any MBS service covering items 296 through 370 (excluding item 359) inclusive by a consultant psychiatrist.

An eligible allied health professional can provide **assessment items** (82000, 82005, 82010, and 82030) to a child under the *Better Start for Children with Disability* program when

- the child has previously been provided with any MBS service covering items 104 through 131 inclusive, or items 296 through 370 (excluding item 359) inclusive by a specialist or consultant physician; or
- the child has previously been provided with any MBS service covering items 3 through 51 by a GP.

An eligible allied health professional can provide **treatment items** (82015-82025, and 82035) to a child under the *Helping Children with Autism* program when:

- the child has previously been provided with a treatment plan (item 135) by a consultant paediatrician; or
- the child has previously been provided with a treatment plan (item 289) by a consultant psychiatrist.

An eligible allied health professional can provide **treatment items** (82015-82025, and 82035) to a child under the *Better Start for Children with Disability* program when:

- the child has previously been provided with a treatment plan (MBS item 137) by a specialist or consultant physician; or
- the child has previously been provided with a treatment plan (MBS item 139) by a GP.

If the referring service has not yet been claimed, Medicare Australia will not be aware of the child's eligibility and Medicare benefits cannot be paid. Medicare Australia will be able to confirm whether a relevant MBS service has been claimed and/or the number of allied health services already claimed by the child. Allied health professionals can call the Medicare Australia provider line on 132 150. Parents and carers can call the patient information line on 132 011.

It is recommended that allied health professionals retain the referral for 24 months from the date the service was rendered for Medicare Australia auditing purposes.

Referring medical practitioners are not required to use a specific form to refer patients for these services. The referral may be a letter or note to an eligible allied health professional signed and dated by the referring practitioner.

8.4.2 Referral validity

Medicare benefits are available for up to four allied health assessment and diagnosis services and up to twenty allied health treatment services per patient in total.

Patients will require a separate referral for each allied health professional they are referred to and they will also need new referrals for each new course of treatment.

8.4.3 Course of treatment

For the purposes of these services, a course of treatment consists of the number of services stated on the child's referral, up to a maximum of 10 services. This enables the referring practitioner to consider a report from the allied health professional(s) about the services provided to the child, and the need for further treatment.

Within the maximum service allocation of twenty services for the treatment items, the allied health professional(s) can provide one or more courses of treatment.

8.5 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

A written report must be provided to the referring medical practitioner by the allied health professional(s) after having provided the assessment and diagnosis and development of a treatment plan service(s) to the child.

On completion of a course of treatment, the eligible audiologist, occupational therapist, optometrist, orthoptist, physiotherapist, psychologist and speech pathologist must provide a written report to the referring medical practitioner which includes information on:

- treatment provided;
- recommendations on future management of the child's disorder; and
- any advice provided to third parties (e.g. parents, schools).

A written report must also be provided to the referring medical practitioner at the completion of any subsequent course(s) of treatment provided to the child.

8.6 FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information refer to www.health.gov.au/mbsonline or visit www.health.gov.au/mbsprimarycareitems

PART 9
DIAGNOSTIC AUDIOLOGY SERVICES
(MBS ITEMS 82300 TO 82332)

9.1 OVERVIEW

The diagnostic audiology services available through MBS items 82300 to 82332 enable an eligible audiologist to perform diagnostic tests upon written request from an Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) specialist (a specialist in the specialty of otolaryngology head and neck surgery); or for some services, a written request from a neurologist (a specialist or consultant physician in the specialty of neurology).

These diagnostic audiology services assist ENT specialists and neurologists in their medical diagnosis and/or treatment and/or management of ear disease or related disorders. The new diagnostic audiology items supplement the existing Otolaryngology items for services delivered by, or on behalf of medical practitioners (MBS items 11300 – 11339, excluding 11304).

9.2 REQUESTING ARRANGEMENTS

Medicare benefits are payable only under the following circumstances:

- For items 82300 and 82306, the written request must be made by an eligible practitioner who is a specialist in the specialty of otolaryngology head and neck surgery;
- For items 82309 to 82332, the written request must be made by an eligible practitioner who is a specialist in the specialty of otolaryngology head and neck surgery or a specialist or consultant physician in the specialty of neurology.

The written request must be in writing and must contain:

- (a) the date of the request; and
- (b) the name of the eligible practitioner who requested the service and either the address of his or her place of practice or the provider number in respect of his or her place of practice; and
- (c) a description of the service which provides sufficient information to identify the service as relating to a particular item (but need not specify the item number).

Written requests should, where possible, note the clinical indication/s for the requested service/s.

A request may be for the performance of more than one diagnostic audiology service making up a single audiological assessment, but cannot be for more than one audiological assessment. This means that for Medicare benefits to be payable, any re-evaluation of the patient should be made at the discretion of the ENT specialist or neurologist through a separate request.

Audiologists do not have the discretion to self-determine diagnostic tests under items 82300 to 82332. If a written request is incomplete or requires clarification, the audiologist should contact the requesting ENT specialist or neurologist for further information. If an audiologist considers that additional tests may be necessary, the audiologist should contact the requesting

ENT specialist or neurologist to discuss the need and if the requesting practitioner determines that additional tests are necessary, an amended or separate written request must be arranged.

It is recommended that audiologists retain the written request for 24 months from the date the service was rendered (for Medicare auditing purposes). A copy of the written request is not required to accompany Medicare claims or be attached to patients' itemised accounts/receipts or assignment of benefit forms.

9.3 ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR AUDIOLOGISTS

The diagnostic audiology items (82300 to 82332) can only be claimed by audiologists who are registered with Medicare Australia. To be eligible to register with Medicare Australia to provide these services, audiologists must meet the following requirements:

Audiologists must be either:

- a 'Full Member' of the Audiological Society of Australia Inc (ASA), who holds a 'Certificate of Clinical Practice' issued by the ASA; or
- an 'Ordinary Member - Audiologist' or 'Fellow Audiologist' of the Australian College of Audiology (ACAud).

9.4 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Where an audiologist provides diagnostic audiology service/s to the patient under a written request, they must provide a copy of the results of the service/s performed together with relevant written comments on those results to the requesting ENT specialist or neurologist. It is recommended that these be provided within 7 days of the date the service was performed.

9.5 NOTES ON DIAGNOSTIC AUDIOLOGY SERVICES

9.5.1 Brain Stem Evoked Response Audiometry - (Item 82300)

Item 82300 can be claimed for the programming of a cochlear speech processor.

9.5.2 Non-determinate Audiometry - (Item 82306)

This refers to audiometry covering those services, one or more, referred to in Items 82309-82318 when not performed under the conditions set out in paragraph M15.3.

9.5.3 Conditions for Audiology Services - (Items 82309 to 82318)

A service specified in Items 82309 to 82318 shall be taken to be a service for the purposes of payment of benefits if, and only if, it is rendered:

- a) in conditions that allow the establishment of determinate thresholds;
- b) in a sound attenuated environment with background noise conditions that comply with Australian Standard AS/NZS 1269.3-2005; and
- c) using calibrated equipment that complies with Australian Standard AS IEC 60645.1-22002, AS IEC 60645.2-2002 and AS IEC 60645.3-2002.

9.5.4 Oto-Acoustic Emission Audiometry - (Item 82332)

Medicare benefits are not payable under Item 82332 for routine screening of infants. The equipment used to provide this service must be capable of displaying the recorded emission and not just a pass/fail indicator.

82324	<p>Audiology health service, consisting of an IMPEDANCE AUDIOGRAM involving tympanometry and measurement of static compliance and acoustic reflex performed on a person by an eligible audiologist (<u>not</u> being a service associated with a service to which item 82309, 82312, 82315 or 82318 applies) if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the service is performed pursuant to a written request made by an eligible practitioner to assist the eligible practitioner in the diagnosis and/or treatment and/or management of ear disease or a related disorder in the person; and (b) the eligible practitioner is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) a specialist in the specialty of otolaryngology head and neck surgery; or (ii) a specialist or consultant physician in the specialty of neurology; and (c) the service is not performed for the purpose of a hearing screening; and (d) the person is not an admitted patient of a hospital; and (e) the service is performed on the person individually and in person; and (f) after the service, the eligible audiologist provides a copy of the results of the service performed, together with relevant comments in writing that the eligible audiologist has on those results, to the eligible practitioner who requested the service; and (g) a service to which item 11324 applies has not been performed on the person on the same day. <p><i>(also refer to notes under Part 9, including note 9.5.3 on Conditions for Audiology Services)</i></p> <p>Fee: \$26.30 Benefit: 85% = \$22.40</p>
82327	<p>Audiology health service, consisting of an IMPEDANCE AUDIOGRAM involving tympanometry and measurement of static compliance and acoustic reflex performed on a person by an eligible audiologist (being a service associated with a service to which item 82309, 82312, 82315 or 82318 applies) if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the service is performed pursuant to a written request made by an eligible practitioner to assist the eligible practitioner in the diagnosis and/or treatment and/or management of ear disease or a related disorder in the person; and (b) the eligible practitioner is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) a specialist in the specialty of otolaryngology head and neck surgery; or (ii) a specialist or consultant physician in the specialty of neurology; and (c) the service is not performed for the purpose of a hearing screening; and (d) the person is not an admitted patient of a hospital; and (e) the service is performed on the person individually and in person; and (f) after the service, the eligible audiologist provides a copy of the results of the service performed, together with relevant comments in writing that the eligible audiologist has on those results, to the eligible practitioner who requested the service; and (g) a service to which item 11327 applies has not been performed on the person on the same day. <p><i>(also refer to notes under Part 9, including note 9.5.3 on Conditions for Audiology Services)</i></p> <p>Fee: \$15.80 Benefit: 85% = \$13.45</p>
82332	<p>Audiology health service, consisting of an OTO-ACOUSTIC EMISSION AUDIOMETRY for the detection of permanent congenital hearing impairment, performed by an eligible audiologist on an infant or child in circumstances in which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the service is performed pursuant to a written request made by an eligible practitioner who is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) a specialist in the specialty of otolaryngology head and neck surgery; or (ii) a specialist or consultant physician in the specialty of neurology; and (b) the infant or child is at risk due to 1 or more of the following factors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) admission to a neonatal intensive care unit; (ii) family history of hearing impairment; (iii) intra-uterine or perinatal infection (either suspected or confirmed); (iv) birthweight less than 1.5kg; (v) craniofacial deformity; (vi) birth asphyxia; (vii) chromosomal abnormality, including Down Syndrome; (viii) exchange transfusion; and (c) middle ear pathology has been excluded by specialist opinion; and (d) the infant or child is not an admitted patient of a hospital; and (e) the service is performed on the infant or child individually and in person; and (f) after the service, the eligible audiologist provides a copy of the results of the service performed, together with relevant comments in writing that the eligible audiologist has on those results, to the eligible practitioner who requested the service; and (g) a service to which item 11332 applies has not been performed on the infant or child on the same day. <p><i>(also refer to notes under Part 9, including note 9.5.4 on Oto-Acoustic Emission Audiometry)</i></p> <p>Fee: \$46.85 Benefit: 85% = \$39.85</p>