



A practice nurse means a registered or enrolled nurse who is employed by, or whose services are otherwise retained by a general practice or by a health service that has an exemption to claim Medicare benefits under sub-section 19(2) of the *Health Insurance Act 1973*.

An Aboriginal Health Worker means a person in the Northern Territory who is registered as an Aboriginal Health Worker under the *Health Practitioners Act 2004 (NT)*, who is employed or retained by a general practice or by a health service that has an exemption to claim Medicare benefits under sub-section 19(2) of the *Health Insurance Act 1973*.

In all cases, the GP under whose supervision the health check follow-up is being provided retains responsibility for the health, safety and clinical outcomes of the patient. The GP must be satisfied that the practice nurse or Aboriginal health worker is appropriately qualified and trained to provide the relevant follow up for the patient. GPs are advised to consult their insurer concerning indemnity coverage for services provided on their behalf.

General practices where nurses or Aboriginal Health Workers provide follow up for Indigenous people who have received a health check, should also have a written clinical risk management strategy covering issues like clinical roles, patient follow up and patient consent.

Continuing professional development is recommended for all nurses and Aboriginal health workers providing follow up services for Indigenous people who have received a health check.

Supervision of the practice nurse/Aboriginal health worker by the GP at a distance is recognised as an acceptable form of supervision. This means that the claiming GP does not have to be physically present at the time the service is provided. However the GP should be able to be contacted if required.

Where the GP and practice nurse/Aboriginal health worker are at the same location, the GP is not required to be present while the health check follow up is undertaken. It is up to the GP to decide whether they need to see the patient. Where the GP has a consultation with the patient, then the GP is entitled to claim a Medicare item for the time and complexity of their personal attendance on the patient. The time the patient spends receiving a service from the practice nurse or Aboriginal Health Worker is itemised separately under item 10987 and should not be counted as part of the Medicare items claimed for time spent with the GP. Where the practice nurse or Aboriginal Health Worker provides another service (eg immunisation, Pap smear) on the same day, the GP is able to claim for all practice nurse/Aboriginal Health Worker services provided.

Item 10990 or 10991 (bulk billing incentives) can be claimed in conjunction with item 10987 provided the conditions of item 10990 or 10991 are satisfied.