



Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing

MBS item 10997 for the provision of monitoring and support to people with a chronic disease by a practice nurse or registered Aboriginal Health Worker on behalf of a GP

From 1 July 2007 Medicare item number 10997 will apply to the provision of monitoring and support to people with a chronic disease by a practice nurse or registered Aboriginal Health Worker on behalf of a general practitioner.

Item 10997

Service provided to a person with a chronic disease by a practice nurse or registered Aboriginal Health Worker if:

- (a) the service is provided on behalf of and under the supervision of a medical practitioner; and
 - (b) the person is not an admitted patient of a hospital; and
 - (c) the person has a GP Management Plan, Team Care Arrangements or Multidisciplinary Care Plan in place; and
 - (d) the service is consistent with the GP Management Plan, Team Care Arrangements or Multidisciplinary Care Plan
- to a maximum of 5 services per patient in a calendar year.

What is a practice nurse or registered Aboriginal Health Worker?

A practice nurse is a registered or enrolled nurse, employed by, or whose services are retained by, a general practice.

A registered Aboriginal Health Worker is 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 whose services are retained by, a general practice.

What is a chronic condition for the purposes of item 10997?

A chronic (or terminal) medical condition is one that has been, or is likely to be, present for 6 months or longer. To be eligible to claim item 10997 a patient must have a GP Management Plan, Team Care Arrangements or Multidisciplinary Care Plan (Medicare Benefits Schedule items 721, 723, 725, 727, 729 or 731) in place. Medicare Australia will not pay item 10997 for a patient where one of these items has not been paid in the last year.

Is it possible to check that a patient is eligible to claim item 10997?

Yes, Medicare Australia can provide information (with the patient's consent) on whether a patient has a current chronic disease management plan in place, and on how many times item 10997 has been claimed this year in respect of the patient by calling Medicare Australia on 132 011 to check this information.

What is monitoring and support for the purposes of item 10997?

Item 10997 may be used to provide:

- checks on clinical progress;
- monitoring medication compliance;
- self management advice, and;
- collection of information to support GP reviews of Care Plans.

The services provided by the practice nurse or Aboriginal Health Worker should be consistent with the scope of the GP Management Plan, Team Care Arrangements or Multidisciplinary Care Plan.

Item 10997 only applies where:

- a patient has a GP Management Plan, Team Care Arrangements or Multidisciplinary Care Plan in place for the treatment of a chronic condition.

Who can claim item 10997?

Item 10997 can only be claimed by a GP for the provision of monitoring and support to people with a chronic disease by a practice nurse or registered Aboriginal Health Worker on behalf of the GP.

All vocationally registered and non-vocationally registered GPs are eligible to claim item 10997.

Where an exemption under subsection 19(2) of the Health Insurance Act 1973 has been granted to an Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation or a State/Territory Government Health Clinic, item 10997 may be claimed for services provided by a practice nurse or registered Aboriginal Health Worker.

What qualifications and training are required for a practice nurse or registered Aboriginal Health Worker to provide monitoring and support to people with a chronic disease?

In all cases, the GP (who is responsible for the health, safety and clinical outcomes of the patient) must be satisfied that the practice nurse or registered Aboriginal Health Worker is appropriately qualified and trained to provide monitoring and support for patients with chronic a disease.

The practice nurse or registered Aboriginal Health Worker must also comply with any relevant legislative or regulatory requirements.

Quality assurance and continuing professional development

Continuing professional development is recommended for practice nurses and registered Aboriginal Health Workers providing this service.

General practices, where practice nurses or registered Aboriginal Health Workers provide monitoring and support to people with a chronic disease, should also have a written clinical risk management strategy covering issues like clinical roles, pathology follow-up and patient consent.

Must the GP see the patient or be present in order to claim item 10997?

As the service is being provided on behalf of, and under the supervision of the GP, the GP retains responsibility for the health, safety and clinical outcomes of the patient.

However, this does not mean that the GP is required to see the patient or be present with the practice nurse or registered Aboriginal Health Worker during the service, to claim item 10997.

Where a separate consultation takes place with the patient, the GP is only eligible to claim a Medicare item for the length of time that the GP spends with the patient. The time the practice nurse or registered Aboriginal Health Worker spends with the patient to provide monitoring and support to people with a chronic disease is claimed under item 10997.

What level of medical indemnity insurance is required?

The GP who claims item 10997 will need to ensure that their medical indemnity insurance covers circumstances where a practice nurse or registered Aboriginal Health Worker provides monitoring and support to people with a chronic disease on their behalf.

What is the level of the Medicare rebate for item 10997?

The Medicare rebate for item 10997 is paid at 100% of the schedule fee. The Medicare rebate is \$10.60.

Can item 10997 be claimed in conjunction with the bulk billing incentive items 10990 and 10991?

Yes, as long as the provision of monitoring and support to a person with a chronic disease is provided to a Commonwealth concession card holder, or person under the age of 16, and the service is bulk billed.

Further information

For further information, visit the Department of Health and Ageing website at http://www.health.gov.au/internet/wcms/publishing.nsf/Content/health-medicare-health_pro-gp-index.htm or the Medicare Australia website at www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/ or call Medicare Australia on **132 011**.