

## Reference Guide

# Medicare Benefits Schedule Telehealth Items

Medicare rebates for video consultations between specialists and patients in remote, regional and outer metropolitan areas, and in eligible aged care facilities and Aboriginal Medical Services throughout Australia, were introduced on 1 July 2011. Medicare Benefit Schedule (MBS) items were introduced for specialists and for clinical services provided by a health professional located with the patient during the video consultation.

### Changes since introduction

From 1 November 2012, there is a requirement for the patient and specialist to be located a minimum of 15kms apart at the time of the consultation.

From 1 January 2013, MBS benefits will only be available for services provided to patients who are located outside of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification Remoteness Area (ASGC-RA) 1 – Major Cities. This does not affect residents of eligible Aged Care Facilities or patients of eligible Aboriginal Medical Services or eligible Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services who are exempt from the geographical requirements.

### Patient-End Telehealth Services

23 MBS items are available for patient-end services provided to a patient during their video consultation with a specialist, consultant physician or consultant psychiatrist. These items are for face-to-face consultations when patient-end practitioners provide clinical support to the patient during their video consultation.

MBS Item	MBS Group	Location of Service
Medical Practitioner - Telehealth Attendances (Including A General Practitioner, Specialist Or Consultant Physician)		
2100 2126 2143 2195	GROUP A30 SUBGROUP 1	At consulting rooms outside an inner metropolitan area or at an Aboriginal Medical Service
2122 2137 2147 2199	GROUP A30 SUBGROUP 1	Other than consulting rooms such as a home visit or other institution outside an inner metropolitan area
2125 2138 2179 2220	GROUP A30 SUBGROUP 2	At a residential aged care facility

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## Patient-End Telehealth Services continued

MBS Item	MBS Group	Location of Service
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Practice nurse or Aboriginal Health Worker telehealth attendance provided on behalf of a medical practitioner		
10983	GROUP M12 SUBGROUP 1	Outside an inner metropolitan area or at an Aboriginal Medical Service
10984	GROUP M12 SUBGROUP 2	At a residential aged care facility

Participating midwives		
82150 82151 82152	GROUP M13 SUBGROUP 2	Outside an inner metropolitan area or at an Aboriginal Medical Service

Participating nurse practitioners		
82220 82221 82222	GROUP M14 SUBGROUP 2	Outside an inner metropolitan area or at an Aboriginal Medical Service
82223 82224 82225	GROUP M14 SUBGROUP 3	At a residential aged care facility

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## Specialist Telehealth Services

11 MBS items were introduced for consultations via video conferencing on 1 July 2011. These items allow a range of existing MBS attendance items to be provided by specialists, consultant physicians and consultant psychiatrists.

From 1 January 2013, 6 new MBS Telehealth items were introduced for initial specialist and consultant physician attendances where the video consultation is 10 minutes or less. These items are “stand-alone” and not billed with any associated MBS items.

MBS Item	MBS Group	Associated Items
99	GROUP A3 Specialist attendances	104, 105
112	GROUP A4 Consultant physician	110, 116, 119, 132, 133
113	GROUP A3 Specialist attendances	NIL
114	GROUP A4 Consultant physician	NIL
149	GROUP A28 Geriatric medicine: consultant physician or specialist	141, 143
288	GROUP A8 Consultant psychiatrist attendances	291, 293, 296, 300, 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314, 316, 318, 319, 348, 350, 352
384	GROUP A12 Consultant occupational physician attendances	NIL
389	GROUP A12 Consultant occupational physician attendances	385, 386
2799	GROUP A24, SUBGROUP 1 Pain medicine attendances	NIL
2820	GROUP A24, SUBGROUP 1 Pain medicine attendances	2801, 2806, 2814
3003	GROUP A24, SUBGROUP 3 Palliative medicine attendances	NIL

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MBS Item	MBS Group	Associated Items
3015	GROUP A24, SUBGROUP 3 Palliative medicine attendances	3005, 3010, 3014
6004	GROUP A26 Neurosurgery attendances	NIL
6016	GROUP A26 Neurosurgery attendances	6007, 6009, 6011, 6013, 6015
13210	GROUP T1 - miscellaneous therapeutic procedures SUBGROUP 3 – assisted reproductive services	13209
16399	GROUP T4 Obstetrics	16401, 16404, 16406, 16500, 16590, 16591
17609	GROUP T6 Anaesthesia	17610, 17615, 17620, 17625, 17640, 17645, 17650, 17655, 17690

## Further Information

### Fact Sheets

For further information on Medicare Telehealth incentives see the following Rural Health West Fact Sheet:

- Telehealth Financial Initiatives

### Websites

The following websites provide further information on Telehealth and related MBS items

### Rural Health West

[www.ruralhealthwest.com.au/telehealth](http://www.ruralhealthwest.com.au/telehealth)

### MBS Online

[www.mbsonline.gov.au/telehealth](http://www.mbsonline.gov.au/telehealth)

For more information on how Rural Health West can support your practice with Telehealth please contact:  
Telephone: 6389 4500  
Email: [telehealth@ruralhealthwest.com.au](mailto:telehealth@ruralhealthwest.com.au)

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