

USING MEDICARE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

THERE ARE A NUMBER OF ITEMS IN THE MEDICARE BENEFITS SCHEDULE (MBS) FOR SERVICES SPECIFICALLY RELATED TO DISABILITIES

FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES:

MBS items are available for diagnosing and treating children and some adults with specific disabilities. These items refer to appointments with medical practitioners and allied health professionals.

Medical practitioners includes GPs, and specialists such as paediatricians, psychiatrists and other consultants.

Allied health professionals includes other members of your health care team such as audiologists, occupational therapists, optometrists, orthoptists, physiotherapists, psychologists and speech pathologists. Allied health professionals may provide an assessment or treatment services, or both.

MBS Item Numbers 135 (with a consultant paediatrician) and 289 (with a consultant psychiatrist) provides for assessment, diagnosis and the creation of a treatment plan for a child aged under 13 with autism or "any other developmental disorder".

MBS Item Numbers 137 (with a consultant physician) and 139 (with a GP) provides for the assessment, diagnosis and creation of a treatment plan for a child with a disability. 135, 289, 137 and 139 can be claimed once per lifetime.

MBS Item Numbers 82000 (with a psychologist), 82005 (with a speech pathologist), 82010 (with an occupational therapist) and 82030 (with an audiologist, optometrist, orthoptist or physiotherapist) provides for up to four diagnostic or assessment services, when a child with a disability is referred by a consultant paediatrician. The four services can consist of any combination of these Item Numbers.

MBS Item Numbers 82015 (with a psychologist), 82020 (with a speech pathologist), 82025 (with an occupational therapist) and 82035 (with an audiologist, optometrist, orthoptist or physiotherapist) provides for up to 20 treatment services for a child with a disability. The 20 services can consist of any combination of these Item Numbers.

Team Care Arrangements (TCAs) are written plans that are prepared by a GP, and can help coordinate treatments from allied health professionals based on a written plan (called a GP Management Plan). TCAs are produced annually and reviewed every three months, and enable access to five allied health specialist appointments each year.

MBS Item Number 721 allows for a GP to produce a GP Management Plan (GPMP) with you for a specific chronic condition (claimed annually)

MBS Item Number 723 allows for a GP to produce an annual Team Care Arrangement (TCA) based on the GPMP to coordinate treatment from allied health professionals. **MBS Item Number 732** is for a GP to review the Team Care Arrangement, and can be claimed every three months.

FOR PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES:

People with an intellectual disability can access a thorough annual health assessment each year. This health check covers many areas of physical and mental health, and can be claimed once every 12 months.

This health check can be done by a GP or specialist. There are different Medicare Item numbers, depending on the length of your consultation. .

MBS Item Numbers:
With a GP
701, 703, 705, 707

With a specialist
224, 225, 226, 227

The different Item Numbers relate to different appointment lengths: 701 and 224 are for appointments less than 30mins, through to 707 and 227 for appointments longer than 60mins.

More details for each of these numbers are at <http://www9.health.gov.au/mbs/search.cfm>