  

**Good practice table: Five steps towards excellent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander healthcare**

**Step 3: Offer the patient an MBS item annual health check and make arrangements for follow-up**

# Good practice example Yes No Activity needed By whom? By when? Accreditation – Standards (5th edn)\*

**First steps**

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| All members of the practice team understand the intention and requirements of the MBS Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander annual health check (health check) items, including what constitutes a high quality and effective health check |  |  |  |  |  | C2.1, C3.2, C4.1, C5.1, C8.1, QI1.3 |
| Culturally appropriate information is provided to patients about health checks |  |  |  |  |  | C1.3, C2.1, C2.3, C4.1, C1.4c |
| For new patients, time is taken to build rapport andtrust before offering a health check |  |  |  |  |  | GP1.1 |
| Practice team completes a high-quality health check, as per current [recommendations](https://www.racgp.org.au/the-racgp/faculties/atsi/guides/2019-mbs-item-715-health-check-templates) (based on guidelines such as the NACCHO/RACGP [*National guide to a preventive health assessment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people*](http://www.racgp.org.au/national-guide) or the [*CARPA Standard Treatment Manual*](https://remotephcmanuals.com.au/manuals.html)) |  |  |  |  |  | C2.1, C3.2, C5.1, C5.2, QI1.3, GP3.1 |
| The practice team agrees on who in the team will complete each part of the health check (eg practice nurse, Aboriginal health worker/health practitioner, GP) |  |  |  |  |  | C3.2, C3.4, C5.2, C5.3, GP2.3 |

[**racgp.org.au**](https://www.racgp.org.au/home)

**Step 3**

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| **First steps** |
| GPs are available to review, complete and sign offthe health check |  |  |  |  |  | C2.1, C2.3, C3.2, GP2.2 |
| Appointments are long enough to complete a comprehensive health check (30–60 minutes, including at least 15 minutes with GP) |  |  |  |  |  | C2.1, C2.3, C5.2, C8.1, GP1.1 |
| Practice systems support effective recalls and reminders for follow-up of health needs identified in the health check |  |  |  |  |  | GP1.1, GP2.1, GP2.2 |
| Practice team knows referral options for addressing follow-up activities, including those related to clinical pathways and to social and support services (eg housing, legal, family support), and these are clearly documented, updated regularly and easy to find in practice systems |  |  |  |  |  | C1.3, C1.5, C2.1, C5.2,GP2.1, GP2.2, GP2.3, GP 2.4 |

**Good practice**

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| Patient priorities and goals inform the health check |  |  |  |  |  | C2.1, C4.1, C5.3, C7.1, QI1.2, QI1.3, C4.1 |
| A plan is made based on health needs and patient priorities and goals identified during the health check |  |  |  |  |  | C1.3, C1.5, C2.1,GP2.1, GP2.2, GP2.3, GP 2.4 |
| Referral pathways for supporting health needs following a health check are agreed with the patient |  |  |  |  |  | C5.3, C7.1, GP2.1, GP2.2, GP2.3, GP 2.4 |

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**Step 3**

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| **Good practice** |
| Practice recall and reminder systems are used effectively to support follow-up of health needs identified in the health check |  |  |  |  |  | C3.2a, C3.4c, C6.2, GP2.2 |
| Referral pathways are clearly documented, updatedregularly and easy to find in practice systems |  |  |  |  |  | C2.1, C5.3, GP1.1, GP2.3, GP2.4 |

**Best practice**

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| The plan for healthcare following a health check is developed in partnership with the patient |  |  |  |  |  | C1.3, C1.5, QI1.2 |
| Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander clinicians are involved in providing elements of the health check (eg Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers/health practitioners, nurses, GPs) |  |  |  |  |  | GP2.1, C2.1, C5.2 |
| Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients are asked about their experience of health check – patient-reported experience measures (PREMS) |  |  |  |  |  | QI1.2 |

Note – Standards (5th edn): C = Core module, GP = General Practice module, QI = Quality Improvement module

*GP, general practitioner; MBS, Medicare Benefits Schedule; PREMS, patient-reported experience measures*

\*The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners. Standards for general practices. 5th edn. East Melbourne, Vic: RACGP, 2017. Available at [www.racgp.org.au/running-a-practice/practice-standards/standards-](http://www.racgp.org.au/running-a-practice/practice-standards/standards-5th-edition) [5th-edition](http://www.racgp.org.au/running-a-practice/practice-standards/standards-5th-edition) [Accessed 4 September 2019].

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