



# COVID-19 VACCINATION

## IN-REACH WINTER DOSE FUNDING

### General Practice

General practices are critical partners in the roll-out of the vaccination program, providing comprehensive immunisation coverage for their local populations. We encourage all practices to continue to support their local Residential Aged Care Facilities, Disability Support Services and Vulnerable populations to provide in-reach services to ensure eligible people received their winter dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Your PHN can assist in any facilitation or coordination as needed.

**Payments for the winter dose will remain the same as for the administration of other booster doses.**

| Service/Incentive  | GP – Metro     |                | GP – Non-Metro |                | OMP - Metro    |                | OMP – Non-Metro |                |
|--------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
|                    | BH             | AH             | BH             | AH             | BH             | AH             | BH              | AH             |
| Winter Dose*       | \$24.45        | \$36.70        | \$27.80        | \$40.05        | \$17.65        | \$27.75        | \$24.20         | \$34.00        |
| Booster Incentive^ | \$10.00        | \$10.00        | \$10.00        | \$10.00        | \$10.00        | \$10.00        | \$10.00         | \$10.00        |
| <b>Total</b>       | <b>\$34.45</b> | <b>\$46.70</b> | <b>\$37.80</b> | <b>\$50.05</b> | <b>\$27.65</b> | <b>\$37.75</b> | <b>\$34.20</b>  | <b>\$44.00</b> |

\*93644, 93645, 93646, 93647, 93653, 93654, 93655 or 93656

^93666

### Flag-fall item

A flag-fall fee (MBS item 90005) can be claimed for an initial COVID-19 vaccine suitability assessment service conducted in a **residential aged care facility (RACF)**, a **residential disability facility setting** or at a **patient’s place of residence**.

MBS item **90005** must be billed in association with a COVID-19 vaccine suitability assessment service item. If a number of COVID-19 vaccine suitability assessments are being undertaken at the same facility and during the same GP or OMP visit, the item is only applicable to the vaccine suitability assessment provided to the **first** patient seen.

The item compensates GPs for time spent outside of consulting rooms. Medical practitioners who are employed by RACFs or disability support facility settings cannot claim the flag-fall item, nor can nurses or allied health professionals.

## MBS COVID-19 vaccine suitability assessment items

A number of temporary *MBS COVID-19 vaccine suitability assessment items* are available, categorised by:

- Practitioner (GP/Medical Practitioner);
- Location (metropolitan/non-metropolitan);
- Time Period (business/after hours); and
- Dose (first dose/second and subsequent dose).

### Second and subsequent dose items

MBS Items **93644**, **93645**, **93646** and **93647** apply to a professional attendance that:

- is provided in a **business hours period** for the purpose of assessing a patient's suitability to receive the second or subsequent dose of a COVID-19 vaccine; and
- is bulk billed.

MBS Items **93653**, **93654**, **93655** and **93656** apply to a professional attendance that:

- is provided in an **after-hours period hours** for the purpose of assessing a patient's suitability to receive the second or subsequent dose of a COVID-19 vaccine; and
- is bulk billed.

### Booster Incentive Payment

Primary Care providers can access the booster incentive payment which is available to all primary care providers through their existing MBS payment mechanisms (or equivalent payment for CVCs). The introduction of this payment was effective from 23 December 2021 and will cease on 31 December 2022.

MBS item **93666** provides an incentive payment of \$10 per eligible vaccine suitability assessment service to patients receiving a COVID-19 booster vaccination. This booster incentive payment recognises the important role primary care has played in supporting the COVID-19 Vaccine Roll-out Program. The payment can be co-claimed when providing a **winter dose** to an eligible person

### COVID-19 In-reach Vaccination Payment

Primary care providers continue to be eligible for incentive payments to conduct in-reach vaccination clinics to the aged care and disability support sectors to 31 December 2022.

These clinics are held in the workplace (residential aged care facility and disability support facility) to administer vaccines to residents and workers. This includes the delivery of booster doses.

Primary care providers are eligible for an incentive payment of \$20 for vaccine suitability assessment delivered through an in-reach clinic to a resident or worker. In order to be eligible for a payment the primary care provider must have delivered a minimum of 50 vaccine suitability assessments to workers (which can be achieved over multiple in-reach clinics).

### Co-administration of COVID-19 vaccination and a flu vaccine

A COVID-19 vaccination and an influenza vaccination can be administered at the same time and may be provided to patients during the same attendance.

A vaccine suitability assessment MBS item would be billed for the COVID-19 vaccination. Influenza vaccine services are typically administered with standard MBS attendance items.

While a medical practitioner is under no obligation to bulk-bill a patient receiving an influenza vaccination, a patient who also receives a COVID-19 booster vaccination as part of the same occasion of care must be bulk-billed for the MBS COVID-19 vaccine suitability assessment component of the overall service.

Further information can be found at: [MBS online - FAQ - Bulk Billed MBS patient COVID-19 Vaccine Suitability Assessment Service](#)