

Whole of Practice Resources

Optimising the MBS for patients who use alcohol and other drugs

The [Medicare Benefits Schedule](#) book contains all the requirements of a General Practice Management Plan (GPMP), Team Care Arrangements (TCA) and General Practitioner Mental Health Treatment Plan (GPMHTP) and it's essential you check these details yourself before billing these items. This example is designed to illustrate how treatment of alcohol and other drug (AOD) use can be optimised using MBS items for the initial months with your patient.

The options below are particularly applicable for patients with longer-term AOD use that are at higher risk of harm, or those who have developed a dependence on a substance.

Consider a longer-term approach that supports building of therapeutic alliance, patient autonomy and enables the practice to deliver whole-of-person care. Consider team care arrangements that your practice can optimize as part of delivery of whole-of-person care.

Details current as of May 2022. For updates, please visit [MBS online](#).

Summary of Commonly used Item Numbers

- Normal time-based consultation item numbers (**Items 3, 23, 36, 44**).
- GP Chronic disease management plans (**Item 721**).
(for those with a diagnosed chronic disease, e.g., cannabis use disorder, but not someone with high risk AOD use without a diagnosable disorder or complicating condition).
- Team Care Arrangements (**Item 723**) and Reviews (**Items 721/723s – 732**).
(where the GP is coordinating a team of at least two other health care providers– e.g., AOD worker/counsellor, MATOD pharmacist, psychological, social worker, addiction specialist, etc.)
- Mental Health Care Plans (**Items 2715/2717**) and review of Mental Health Care Plans (**Item 2712**).
[The MBS](#) refers to [WHO's Diagnostic and Management Guidelines for Mental Disorders in Primary Care: ICD-10 Chapter V Primary Care Version](#) for diagnostic eligibility. Alcohol use and Drug use disorders (*Pages 12 and 14*) are both included in their own right. They don't need a co-existing psychiatric condition to be eligible, although dual diagnosis will often be present.
- Mental health consultations (**Item 2713**).

Specific Populations

- Health assessments (**Items 701, 703, 705, 707**), including (looking at our higher risk populations)
 - Former serving members of the Australian Defence Force.
 - People aged 45–49 years (inclusive) who are at risk of developing chronic disease.
 - People aged 75 years and older.
 - Refugees and other humanitarian entrants.
 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples (**Item 715**).
- Multi-disciplinary Case conferences (**Items 735, 747, 739, 750, 734, 759**).

Table 1: Example Patient consultation

First 6 weeks	Consult type	MBS Item Number	Opportunity to address
1 st Consultation Admission; Needs assessment.	GP Mental Health Care Consultation	Item 2713 +/- 23	Mental health concerns, disorders, coping strategies.
2nd Consultation GPMHTP.	GP Mental Health Care Plan 20-40 minutes	Item 2717 +/-23	Outline motivations, behavioural change, CBT/ACT therapy/etc. Enlist a team to support mental health.
3rd Consultation GPMP.	GP Management Plan	Item 721	Develop chronic disease care plan.
4th Consultation TCA.	Team care Arrangement	Item 723	Enlist a team to support whole person care needs, improves outcomes, supports the GP.
5th Consultation Continuing care.	Level B	Item 23	Review and pace your consults, take stock, what is the patient finding helpful or unhelpful?
6th Consultation Possible Domiciliary Medication Management Review.	DMMR	Item 900 +/-23	Consider DMMR where polypharmacy or needing extra help with medication regimen.
7-18 weeks	Consult type	MBS Item Number	Opportunity to address
7th Consultation Week 8 Ongoing care	Level B	Item 23	Mental health concerns, disorders, coping strategies.
8th Consultation Week 10 Ongoing Care	Level B	Item 23	Outline motivations, behavioural change, CBT/ACT therapy/etc. Enlist a team to support mental health.
9th Consultation Week 12 Case Conference	Case Conference 20-40 minutes	Item 739 +/- 23	Develop chronic disease care plan.
10th Consultation Week 14 GP Plan Review	GP Mental Health Care Plan Review	Item 2712 +/- 23	Enlist a team to support whole person care needs, improves outcomes, supports the GP.
11th Consultation Week 16 GP Management Plan Review	GP Management Plan	Item 732 +/- 23	Review and pace your consults, take stock, what is the patient finding helpful or unhelpful?
12th Consultation Week 16 TCA Review	TCA Review	Item 732 +/- 23	Consider DMMR where polypharmacy or needing extra help with medication regimen.