

## Who is eligible?

You may be able to claim Medicare rebates for allied health services if you are of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent and have had a health assessment during which the GP has identified a need for follow-up allied health services.

### Health Assessment

It is expected that the GP will undertake a health check consistent with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Medicare health checks (item 704,706,708 or 710).

A health assessment allows a medical practitioner to undertake a comprehensive assessment of a patient.

## Allied health services

Once your GP has done a health assessment, you can be referred for up to five allied health services each calendar year. It is important to understand that your GP will decide whether you should be referred for these services.

The five services can be provided by a single allied health professional or shared across different professionals.

You can request that the GP refer you to an allied health professional you already know, or your GP can recommend one.

Allied health professionals need to meet specific eligibility criteria and be registered with Medicare Australia.

### Eligible allied health professionals

- Aboriginal health workers
- audiologists
- chiropractors
- diabetes educators
- dietitians
- exercise physiologists
- mental health workers
- occupational therapists
- osteopaths
- physiotherapists
- podiatrists
- psychologists
- speech pathologists

## Other allied health services available under Medicare

A practice nurse/Aboriginal health worker item (10987) has been introduced for people of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent who have received a health assessment. This item enables Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people to receive follow-up services from a practice nurse or registered Aboriginal health worker on behalf of a GP.

Medicare benefits are also available for a range of other allied health services for certain patients. You may be eligible for these if you:

- have a chronic medical condition and complex care needs;
- have type 2 diabetes;
- have an assessed mental disorder;
- are a child with autism or any other pervasive developmental disorder;
- are a women who is concerned about either a current pregnancy, or one that occurred in the previous 12 months.



## In Summary:

- Medicare rebate for a maximum of five (5) services per patient each calendar year, with out-of-pocket costs counting towards the extended Medicare safety net
- Patient must be a person of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent who has had a health assessment
- A person is of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent if they self-identify
- Your GP will decide whether you should be referred for these services
- Allied health professionals must be registered with Medicare Australia

## Private health insurance

If you have private health insurance, you will need to decide if you wish to use Medicare or your private health insurance to pay for these services. You cannot use private health insurance ancillary cover to 'top up' your Medicare rebate.

## Claiming

Allied health professionals, like doctors, are free to set the level of their fees. If your allied health provider bulk bills, there will be no charge for these services. If not, you will be charged a fee and you can claim the rebate from Medicare.

Out-of-pocket expenses for these services count towards the extended Medicare safety net.

If you are unsure, or lose track of how many allied health services you have claimed in a calendar year, you can check with Medicare Australia on 132 011.

## More information

For more information on Medicare rebates for allied health services talk to your GP or go to the Department of Health and Ageing web site at [www.health.gov.au](http://www.health.gov.au) and follow the A-Z links to the program you are interested in or go to [www.health.gov.au/mbsprimarycareitems](http://www.health.gov.au/mbsprimarycareitems)

Any questions? ask your doctor or practice nurse

# MEDICARE REBATES FOR ALLIED HEALTH (INDIVIDUAL) SERVICES

**- FOR PATIENTS OF  
ABORIGINAL OR  
TORRES STRAIT  
ISLANDER DESCENT**

## Patient Information