



Amendments to Temporary MBS heart health assessment items

Last updated: 5 June 2023

- Temporary MBS heart health assessment services (item 699 and 177) delivered by general practitioners and other medical practitioners (other than specialists and consultant physicians) will be continued until 30 June 2025.
- From 1 July 2023, restrictions preventing the claiming of both a heart health assessment item and an MBS item for a First Nations health assessment within a 12 month period will be removed.
- These changes are relevant for general and medical practitioners who provide heart health assessments.

What are the changes?

Temporary MBS heart health assessment items will continue to be available until 30 June 2025. This includes:

- item 699 for general practitioners; and
- item 177 for medical practitioners (other than specialists or consultant physicians).

From 1 July 2023, restrictions preventing First Nations people claiming a heart health assessment service within 12 months of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples health assessment service (items 715, 228, 92004, 92011) will be removed.

Why are the changes being made?

The Australian Government extended the items until 30 June 2025 as part of the 2023-24 Budget.

The extension supports consideration of the items under the Department's current review of all MBS health assessment services, noting disease specific health assessment services, and the potential impacts of cardiovascular disease assessment in this context, will be an area of consideration.

The amendments to item claiming restrictions will support the earlier diagnosis and treatment of cardiovascular disease in First Nations people.

What does this mean for providers?

Providers can continue to deliver heart health assessment services via MBS items 699 and 177 until 30 June 2025.

From 1 July 2023, providers may also deliver a Medicare subsidised heart health assessment item to First Nations people who have received an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health assessment (via MBS items 715, 228, 92004 or 92011) within the previous 12-months.

Note:

- An assessment of a patient's cardiovascular health may also be conducted during an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health assessment.
- Unless clinically relevant, where the above assessment has been provided within the previous nine months, a Heart Health Assessment should not be claimed.

Providers will need to familiarise themselves with the amendments to MBS heart health assessment items and any associated rules and the explanatory note AN.14.2. The items are located in the MBS within Subheading 1 (Health Assessments) of Group A14 (Health Assessments) and Subgroup 5 (Non-Specialist Practitioner health assessments) of Group A7 (Acupuncture and Non-Specialist Practitioner Items).

Providers have a responsibility to ensure that any services they bill to Medicare fully meet the eligibility requirements outlined in the legislation.

How will these changes affect patients?

Eligible patients will continue to receive Medicare benefits for clinically appropriate heart health assessment services.

First Nations people will benefit from greater access to dedicated heart health assessment items.

Who was consulted on the changes?

Consultation with peak medical bodies and cardiovascular health organisations was undertaken in November and December 2022.

How will the changes be monitored and reviewed?

All heart health assessment items will continue to be subject to MBS compliance processes and activities, including random targeted audits which may require a provider to submit evidence about the services claimed.

Significant variation from forecasted expenditure may warrant review and amendment of fees, and incorrect use of MBS items can result in penalties including the health professional being asked to repay monies that have been incorrectly received.

Where can I find more information?

The full item descriptor(s) and information on other changes to the MBS can be found on the MBS Online website at www.mbsonline.gov.au. You can also subscribe to future MBS updates by visiting [MBS Online](#) and clicking 'Subscribe'.

The Department of Health provides an email advice service for providers seeking advice on interpretation of the MBS items and rules and the Health Insurance Act and associated regulations. If you have a query relating exclusively to interpretation of the Schedule, you should email askMBS@health.gov.au.

Subscribe to '[News for Health Professionals](#)' on the Services Australia website and you will receive regular news highlights.

If you are seeking advice in relation to Medicare billing, claiming, payments, or obtaining a provider number, please go to the Health Professionals page on the Services Australia website or contact the Services Australia on the Provider Enquiry Line – 13 21 50.

The data file for software vendors when available can be accessed via the [Downloads](#) page.

Please note that the information provided is a general guide only. It is ultimately the responsibility of treating practitioners to use their professional judgment to determine the most clinically appropriate services to provide, and then to ensure that any services billed to Medicare fully meet the eligibility requirements outlined in the legislation.

This factsheet is current as of the Last updated date shown above and does not account for MBS changes since that date.