



Medicare

The Department of Human Services administers Medicare on behalf of the Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA), who is responsible for developing Medicare policy. Medicare usually covers free or subsidised treatment by health professionals such as doctors, specialists and other allied health practitioners.

The Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) is a DoHA publication listing services that are subsidised by the Australian government under Medicare. You can use MBS Online to check if a service is listed under Medicare, go to: www.mbsonline.gov.au

Eligibility for Medicare

If you aren't already enrolled, you can complete a Medicare enrolment application form. When you take the form to a Service Centre, you need to bring your identification and proof of residency documents.

Medicare Safety Net

Once you reach a relevant threshold, the Medicare Safety Net provides an additional benefit for eligible services, in addition to the Standard Medicare benefit. This may mean that visits to your doctor or having tests could cost you less for the rest of the calendar year.

**Couples and families need to register for the Medicare Safety Net.*

You can register in a number of ways:

- Download and fill in a Medicare Safety Net couples and families registration and amendment form from the Department of Human Services website: www.humanservices.gov.au
- Call 132 011
- Visit your local service centre

Helping Children with Autism Package

This program provides Medicare rebates for diagnosis and treatment services for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder or other Pervasive Developmental Disorders. Medicare (MBS) items have been introduced for:

Private Diagnosis

- Consultant paediatricians/psychiatrists to diagnose and develop a treatment plan for **children aged under 13**.
- Consultant paediatricians /psychiatrists to refer to eligible allied health providers to assist with diagnosis or for the purpose of contributing to a child's treatment plan.
- Eligible allied health providers to collaborate with the Paediatrician/Psychiatrist on the assessment, where required (up to 4 services per child).

Private Therapy

- Eligible allied health providers to provide intervention services for children **aged under 15 years** (20 services in total per child). A referral from a Paediatrician is required before a child's thirteenth birthday.

| Referral required | Medical Professional | Services Provided | Medicare Item No. |
|---|--|--|---|
| GP referral | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paediatrician | To diagnose and develop treatment plan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 135 |
| Paediatrician using Medicare item no. 110-113 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psychologist • Speech Pathologist • Occupational Therapist | To diagnose and contribute to treatment plan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 82000 • 82005 • 82010 |
| Paediatrician using Medicare item no. 135 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psychologist • Speech Pathologist • Occupational Therapist | To provide treatment in line with treatment plan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 82015 • 82020 • 82025 |

Two other Medicare Benefit Schemes that may be available to individuals diagnosed with Autism or other conditions:

Chronic Disease Management (CDM)

This Program provides Medicare rebates for a number of allied health services upon referral from a GP for individuals with chronic conditions and complex care needs. The Program allows up to 5 services each calendar year with any number of the eligible allied health professionals (i.e. psychologist, occupational therapist, speech therapist). A GP will determine whether the scheme is appropriate and then, in liaison with the individual's support system develop a treatment plan and determine the most relevant services required.

Better Access to Mental Health Care

This Program provides Medicare rebates through the development of a GP Mental Health Care Plan for individuals with an eligible condition. The Program allows for up to 10 individual services per calendar year. Following the initial course of treatment (a maximum of 6 sessions), individuals can access more sessions upon review of up to 10 per calendar year.

The sessions can be provided by allied health professionals who deliver focused psychological strategies, including psychologists (MBS Item 80110 & 80120), and other allied mental health providers. A referral from a GP (MBS Item 2700) is required and he/she will determine if the scheme is appropriate.

Further information on these Medicare benefit schemes can be obtained by calling the Medicare Australia Patient Enquiry Line on 132 011 or by accessing the following website: www.mbsonline.gov.au