



MBS Items for General Practitioners FACT SHEET

Version1 – 1 July 2023

MBS Items

From 1 February 2023, the vaccine suitability assessment MBS items were streamlined and simplified to reflect integration of these services into routine care. These fees were increased on **1 July 2023** in-line with MBS indexation.

COVID-19 funding description			MBS Item	Payment
MBS - business hours - suitability assessment items	GP	MMM1	93644	\$36.35
		MMM2-7	93645	\$39.90
	OMP	MMM1	93646	\$29.20
		MMM2-7	93647	\$36.05
MBS– after hours – suitability assessment items	GP	MMM1	93653	\$49.30
		MMM2-7	93654	\$52.75
	OMP	MMM1	93655	\$39.70
		MMM2-7	93656	\$46.40
MBS - Remote supervision items	GP/OMP	MMM1	93660	\$22.10
		MMM2-7	93661	\$25.25
Flag fall*	GP/OMP	MMM1-7	90005	\$122.40
MBS – in-depth vaccine assessment item **	GP	MMM1-7	10660	\$41.15
	OMP	MMM1-7	10661	\$32.95

Note: Other Medical Practitioner (OMP)

MBS COVID-19 vaccine suitability assessment items

The temporary MBS COVID-19 vaccine suitability assessment items are categorised by:

- Practitioner (GP/Medical Practitioner); and
- Location (metropolitan/non-metropolitan);

For the purposes of claiming an MBS item, it is the responsibility of treating practitioners to use their professional judgment to determine the most clinically appropriate services to provide, and to ensure that any services billed to Medicare fully meet the eligibility requirements outlined in the legislation.

Providing access to safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines to everyone in Australia seeking to be vaccinated is a priority of the Australian Government. COVID-19 vaccinations are free for everyone in Australia and the MBS items implemented to support COVID-19 vaccination suitability assessments must be bulk billed by general practices participating in the Program. **A patient must NOT be charged out of pocket costs for any service provided relating to a COVID-19 suitability assessment or vaccination.**

If an individual does not have a Medicare card, or is not eligible for Medicare, they can receive a free vaccine at a Community Pharmacy or State or Territory Vaccination Site. Alternatively, vaccine providers can administer the vaccine, but it must be provided free of charge. Your Primary Health Network can also assist including arranging reimbursements for general practice.

Flag-fall Item

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

It 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 RACHs or disability support facility settings **cannot** claim the flag-fall item.

The item is paid regardless of whether the GP or OMP sees DVA or Medicare patients or a combination of both. A practitioner cannot claim extra compensation for visiting a second facility or residence co-located or adjacent to one they visit and cannot claim a bulk-billing incentive in conjunction with the flag-fall item.

In-Depth Patient Assessment Item

MBS items 10660 and 10661 are available to support **GPs and OMPs to attend to a patient in-person for more than 10 minutes**. The claiming GP or OMP must attend this patient in-person for more than 10 minutes; the service cannot be delegated. MBS items 10660 and 10661 must be provided and billed in conjunction with the relevant MBS COVID-19 vaccine suitability assessment item.

These items are available to all Medicare eligible patients who require in-depth medical assessment and advice regarding their individual risks and benefits associated with receiving a COVID-19 vaccination. MBS items 10660 and 10661 are available to both patients who are yet to receive a dose of a COVID-19 vaccine or those who have received their first dose and require further clinical support and advice. A patient is only ever eligible to receive one in-depth patient assessment.

Remote Supervision

MBS items 93660 and 93661 allow a GP or OMP to delegate the vaccine suitability assessment to an appropriately qualified health professional employed by the practice (such as a nurse or Aboriginal Health Worker). A GP or OMP does not need to be on-site for these assessments, however, the rebate must be claimed by the GP or OMP and they retain full responsibility for the service.

These items can **only be claimed for vaccinations provided outside of consultation rooms in a person's place of residence, including in a residential aged care facility or disability care facility.**

MBS items 93660 and 93661 cannot be claimed in conjunction with the in-depth vaccine suitability assessment items (items 10660 and 10661), which must be provided in-person by a GP or OMP.

MBS items 93660 and 93661 **can** be billed in conjunction with the flag-fall item 90005.

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

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.

RESOURCES

- **Information on the COVID-19 MBS Items**
- Find out more about **vaccination for those without a Medicare card.**
- For information relating to Medicare claiming, payments, or obtaining a provider number, go to the **Services Australia** website or call **13 21 50.**
- Providers seeking advice on interpretation of the MBS items and rules and the *Health Insurance Act* and associated regulations can contact the Department of Health and Aged Care at **askMBS@health.gov.au.**