

Bulk billing incentives Summary of MBS item numbers

Service type →	Bulk billing incentive for unreferral general medical services			Bulk billing incentive for unreferral diagnostic imaging services		Bulk billing incentive for unreferral pathology services	
Patient eligibility →	For patients under the age of 16 or Commonwealth concession card holders ¹ for whom an unreferral ² general medical service item number is being claimed		For patients under the age of 16 or Commonwealth concession card holders ¹ for whom an after hours unreferral ² general medical service item number is being claimed	For patients under the age of 16 or Commonwealth concession card holders ¹ for whom an unreferral ² diagnostic imaging service item number is being claimed		For patients under the age of 16 or Commonwealth concession card holders ¹ for whom an unreferral ² pathology service item number is being claimed	
Relevant MBS item number →	Bulk billing incentive payment for unreferral general medical services provided in any area #10990	Higher bulk billing incentive payment for unreferral general medical services provided in an eligible area ³ #10991	Bulk billing incentive payment for unreferral after hours general medical services, provided in an eligible area ^{3,4} #10992	Bulk billing incentive payment for unreferral diagnostic imaging services #64990	Bulk billing incentive payment for unreferral diagnostic imaging services, provided in an eligible area ³ #64991	Bulk billing incentive payment for unreferral pathology services #74990	Bulk billing incentive payment for unreferral pathology services, provided in an eligible area ³ #74991

¹ Commonwealth concession card holder means a person listed on a Pensioner Concession Card, Health Care Card or Commonwealth Seniors Health Card issued by either Centrelink or the Department of Veterans' Affairs. Gold or White Cards issued by the Department of Veterans' Affairs do not attract the additional bulk billing payment. However, if a Gold or White Card holder also holds a recognised Commonwealth concession card and chooses to be treated under the Medicare arrangements, then that patient is an eligible concession card holder.

² 'Unreferral service' means a medical service provided to a patient by, or on behalf of, a medical practitioner, being a service that has not been referred to that practitioner by another medical practitioner or person with referring rights.

³ The eligible areas are: Rural Remote and Metropolitan Areas (RRMAs) 3-7, Tasmania, and metropolitan areas with low doctor-to-population ratios and bulk billing rates. For maps of these areas, see www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/health-medicare-health_pro-gp-index.htm

⁴ This item can only be claimed alongside the following after hours item numbers: 1, 97, 601, 697, 5003, 5007, 5010, 5023, 5026, 5028, 5043, 5046, 5049, 5063, 5064, 5067, 5220, 5223, 5227, 5228, 5240, 5243, 5247, 5248, 5260, 5263, 5265 or 5267.

All information is current as at September 2008. Health professionals intending to use these items should refer to the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) book or to the Allied Health and Dental Services MBS booklet for more comprehensive information, including the MBS requirements for each item. Alternatively, they can search for specific items at www9.health.gov.au/mbs or telephone Medicare Australia on 03 9605 7964 or contact the local Division of General Practice.