

Prevention MBS item numbers

Summary of explanatory notes and web links

	Type 2 diabetes risk evaluation #713	45+ health check #717	Immunisation #10988, #10993	Taking of a Cervical Smear only #10998, #10999	Taking of a Cervical Smear and provision of a preventive health check #10994, #10995
Steps that must be taken to claim the Medicare item	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluation of a 'high risk' score determined by the Australian Type 2 Diabetes Risk Evaluation Tool¹ Updating patient history and undertaking examinations and investigations in accordance with relevant guidelines² Making an overall assessment of risk factors, relevant examinations and the results of any investigations Interventions where appropriate, including referrals and follow up relating to identified risk factors Providing advice and information including strategies to achieve lifestyle and behaviour changes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information collection, including taking a patient history and undertaking examinations and investigations as required Overall patient assessment Interventions as indicated Providing advice and information including strategies to achieve lifestyle and behaviour changes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration of a registered vaccine to a patient for any purpose other than as part of a mass immunisation of persons⁴ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Taking of a Pap smear 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Taking of a Pap smear At least one preventive check
Medicare rules relating to frequency of service	Can be claimed once every 3 years for every eligible patient, or where more than 3 years have elapsed since a #717 was claimed.	One occasion only for each eligible patient. This item is not an annual health check	Can be claimed only once per patient visit	Can be claimed only once per patient visit	Nil
Role of the GP	Responsibility for the overall health check, with a primary role in reviewing/analysis information collected, making an overall assessment of risk factors and the patient's readiness to change, investigations, referrals including to lifestyle modification programs ³ , advice and follow up	Responsibility for the overall health check, including reviewing/analysing information, investigations, assessments, referrals, patient advice	Delegation of service to the Aboriginal Health Worker or practice nurse	Delegation of service to the practice nurse	Delegation of service to the practice nurse
Roles that can be performed by practice nurses (PNs), Aboriginal health workers (AHWs) and other health professionals on behalf of and under the supervision of the GP	Identifying eligible patients, collecting patient information, providing advice to patients about recommended interventions	Identifying eligible patients, collecting patient information, providing advice to patients about recommended interventions	All components	All components	All components
Main information web link	Type 2 diabetes risk evaluation: www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/Diabetes-Fact%20Sheet 45+ health check: www.health.gov.au/internet/main/Publishing.nsf/Content/health-epc-45check				

¹ Where the GP suspects that a patient has or may have type 2 diabetes mellitus, they may wish to order diagnostic tests to exclude the presence of diabetes prior to advising the patient to complete the Diabetes Risk Evaluation Tool.

² In considering and addressing risk factors, GPs are encouraged to utilize relevant guidelines and resources, such as the RACGP publications "SNAP – a population health guide to behavioural risk factors in general practice", "Putting Prevention into Practice" (the 'Green Book'), and "Guidelines for Preventive Activities in General Practice" (the 'Red Book') and the NH&MRC's *National Evidence Based Guidelines for the Management of Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus – Primary Prevention of Type 2 Diabetes*.

³ Access to subsidized lifestyle modification programs will require the provision of a formal referral letter including the provider number of the referring GP.

⁴ A registered vaccine means a vaccine that is included on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods. This includes all vaccines on the Australian Standard Vaccination Schedule and vaccines covered in the Australian Immunisation Handbook 8th edition.

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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.