



Important Mental Health Care Plan Update

Claiming of Medicare Benefit Schedule (MBS) Item No. 2710

It seems there have been some problems arising recently for GPs claiming the MBS 2710 item number. We have been informed that there has been some kind of glitch in the communication between the General Practice Mental Health Standards Collaboration (GPMHSC) and Medicare. This has resulted in a failure to activate the system to recognise GPs who have completed mental health skills training (MHST) since 2001 and are therefore eligible to continue to claim the 2710.

RACGP has advised us to inform general Practice that delaying claiming of the 2710 item number is advisable until GPs have received a letter informing them of their eligibility to claim the 2710 (unfortunately, we cannot tell them when to expect this). Alternatively, the 2702 item (lesser rebate for GPs without MHST training) could be claimed without the risk of rejection – although at \$30 less per Mental Health Treatment Plan, I'm not sure that this is a fair compromise either!

Please note: a rejection of the 2710 item does not directly default to the 2702 item. GPs will have to resubmit the claim once their registration status has been recorded on the system.

Clarifying the changes Budget measure description

The 2009 -10 Budget included the following changes to the Better Access initiative in relation to the development of Mental Health Treatment Plans for people with a diagnosed mental disorder:

- Changing the name of the "GP Mental Health Care Plan" to "GP Mental Health Treatment Plan" to better reflect what it is intended to do (from 1 July 2009);
- Requiring that GPs document a diagnosis of a mental disorder in the Plan (from 1 July 2009);
- Introducing a new Medicare item for GPs who have not completed Mental Health Skills training (from 1 January 2010).

Checking GP Status for Claiming Item No 2710

Please telephone the General Practice Mental Health Standards Collaboration (GPMHSC) Office on 03 8699 0554 to confirm you are compliant and your details have been sent to Medicare for recording.

Billing New MBS item for Mental Health Skills training

2710 Item GP Mental Health Treatment Plan for GPs who have completed Mental Health Level One Skills Training - eligible for a rebate of \$160.45

2702 GP Mental Health Treatment Plan GPs for GPs who have not completed accredited Mental Health Skills Training - eligible for a rebate of \$125.95

GPs who have undertaken the training accredited by the General Practice Mental Health Standards Collaboration (GPMHSC) since the commencement of the Better Outcomes in Mental Health Care program on 1 July 2001 will continue to be able to access the current schedule fee of \$156.85 for developing a Mental Health Treatment Plan under MBS item 2710. Those GPs who have not completed the training will still be able to refer patients to allied mental health professionals in line with current arrangements. However, they will only have access to the lower schedule fee.

Where to Access Training

MDGP will be facilitating Mental Health Level Skills One Training "Young Minds" in February 2010. A flyer will be out soon. If you require further information please call Karin Barron at MDGP on 4953 4491 or email kbarron@mackaydgp.com.au

Additional Mental Health Level Skill One Training can be accessed online at RACGP's GPlearning. The Mental Health Category 1 Active Learning Modules (ALM) available include: Psychosis, Depression and Managing Bipolar in General Practice. Each ALM consists of three components: a pre-test, learning modules and post-test. RACGP AQ&CPD points apply: 40 category 1 points for each 6 Hour ALM. For further information go to www.gplearning.com.au or call 1800 284 789.