



Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing



Medicare Benefits Schedule Allied Health Services

1 NOVEMBER 2007

Referral authority for parenting, see over →

4. Skills training

- Problem solving skills and training
- Anger management
- Social skills training
- Communication training
- Stress management
- Parent management training

Services provided by Values Based Parenting Psychologist (Martin Walsh: 0408 805 880) are rebated by Medicare when the parent obtains a referral (item 2710) from their GP.

5. Interpersonal Therapy (especially for depression)

There is flexibility to include narrative therapy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Course of treatment and reporting back to the referring medical practitioner

Patients are eligible to receive up to twelve individual services (up to eighteen in exceptional circumstances) and up to twelve group sessions in a calendar year.

Within this maximum service allocation, the allied mental health professional can provide one or more courses of treatment. For the purposes of the allied mental health items, a course of treatment consists of up to six services (but may involve less than six depending on the referral). This enables the referring medical practitioner to consider a report from the allied mental health professional on the services provided to the patient, and the need for further treatment.

On completion of the initial course of treatment, the allied mental health professional must provide a written report to the referring medical practitioner, which includes information on:

- assessments carried out on the patient;
- treatment provided; and
- recommendations on future management of the patient's disorder.

A written report must also be provided to the referring medical practitioner at the completion of any subsequent course(s) of treatment provided to the patient.

Out-of-pocket expenses and Medicare safety net

Charges in excess of the Medicare benefit for these items are the responsibility of the patient. However, such out-of-pocket costs will count toward the Medicare safety net for that patient. Any psychological therapy services and/or focussed psychological strategies services that are in excess of the entitlement of twelve (12) individual services (apart from where exceptional circumstances apply) and twelve group sessions in a calendar year will not attract a Medicare benefit and the safety net arrangements will not apply to costs incurred by the patient for such services.

Eligible patients

Items 80100 to 80170 (inclusive) apply to people with an assessed mental disorder and where the patient is referred by a GP who is managing the patient under a GP Mental Health Care Plan (item 2710), or under a referred psychiatrist assessment and management plan (item 291); or from an eligible psychiatrist or paediatrician.