

Indirect Funding for Nursing in General Practice Healthy Practices

APNA has produced a suite of resources to help general practices employ nurses and optimise their role in the general practice setting. Fulfilling these aims will help build Healthy Practices that deliver positive outcomes for their communities through nursing skills and expertise.

Nursing roles can be supported through the Practice Nurse Incentive Program (PNIP), Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS), Practice Incentives Program (PIP), and patient payments.

Approximately 21 per cent of clinical activities undertaken directly by nurses can be funded through the MBS¹.

Nurses can attract substantial additional MBS revenue by working with GPs and contributing to work that can be billed through the MBS.

The following models of clinical nursing care can be funded indirectly through the MBS.

(Current February 2015)

Model of care	Nursing roles	Patient eligibility	MBS items	Medicare benefit <small>Descriptors apply</small>
Health checks and health assessments	Nurses may assist a GP in performing a health assessment, in accordance with accepted medical practice and under the supervision of the GP. This may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information collection, including gathering of patient information for a GP and taking and recording measurements. - Providing patients with information about recommended interventions at the direction of a GP. All other components of the health assessment must include personal attendance by a GP.	See fact sheet: www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/mbsprimarycare_mbsitem_general_factsheet	#701	\$59.35
			#703	\$137.90
			#705	\$190.30
			#707	\$268.80
			#715	\$212.25

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Model of care	Nursing roles	Patient eligibility	MBS items	Medicare benefit Descriptors apply
Care plans for patients with chronic or terminal medical conditions	<p>Nurses may assist a GP in various ways including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintaining registers of patients with particular chronic illnesses - Assessment - Identification of patient needs - Making arrangements for services - Reviewing patient progress in relation to their care plan. <p>There is evidence supporting nursing roles to manage recall and reminder systems to ensure patients receive regular and ongoing reviews in relation to the management of their chronic illness. The GP must review and confirm all assessments and arrangements, and see the patient.</p> <p>The PIP also provides funding for planned diabetes and asthma care.</p>	<p>See Questions and Answers on the Chronic Disease Management (CDM) items:</p> <p>www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/mbsprimarycare-chronicdisease-management-qanda</p>	<p>#721</p> <p>#723</p> <p>#729</p> <p>#731</p> <p>#732</p> <p>#10997</p> <p>#2517</p> <p>#2546</p> <p>#2521</p> <p>#2552</p> <p>#2525</p> <p>#2558</p>	<p>\$144.25</p> <p>\$114.30</p> <p>\$70.40</p> <p>\$70.40</p> <p>\$72.05</p> <p>\$12.00</p> <p>\$37.05</p> <p>\$37.05</p> <p>\$37.05</p> <p>\$71.70</p> <p>\$105.55</p> <p>\$105.55</p>
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health	<p>Nurses may assist a GP in various ways including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintaining a register of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients within the practice - Maintaining a register of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients within the practice - Assessment - Identification of patient needs - Making arrangements for services - Providing direct services to patients (item #10987). <p>The PIP also provides funding to provide better health care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients, including best practice management of chronic disease.</p>	<p>See Medicare Health Assessments: MBS Items 701-707 and 715:</p> <p>www.health.gov.au/internet/mbsonline/publishing.nsf/Content/Factsheet-MedicareHealthAssessments</p>	<p>Care plan items</p> <p>Health check item</p> <p>#715</p> <p>#10987</p>	<p>As above</p> <p>As above</p> <p>\$212.25</p> <p>\$24.00</p>

Not all nursing services require an MBS item in order to be viable. For example, a nurse can run a clinic, such as a women’s health clinic, healthy lifestyle clinic or wound management clinic, which could be funded through a combination of the PNIP and charging a small patient payment.

For more information:

- MBS Online: www.mbsonline.gov.au
- MBS flipchart: docs.health.vic.gov.au/docs/doc/MBS-flipchart
- MBS online education services: www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/provider/business/education

Reference:

¹ Phillips, C.B., Pearce, C., Hall, S., Kjakovic, M., Sibbald, B., Dwan, K. et al. Enhancing care, improving quality: the six roles of the general practice nurse. Medical Journal of Australia. 2009;191:92–97.

www.apna.asn.au www.healthypractices.apna.asn.au

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