

Palliative Care in General Practice

MBS remuneration support

Planned Palliative Care in General Practice

Palliative care planning can improve the management of a patient's health conditions and help avoid unplanned hospital admissions. While there are no palliative care specific MBS item numbers applicable to general practice, there are a number of general MBS item numbers that can be utilised to support palliative care planning.

A palliative care approach is appropriate when the goal of care shifts from cure to symptom management and supporting of quality of life. To assist with the early identification of patients who would benefit from a palliative care approach, it is recommended that clinicians utilise a prognostic trigger, such as the Surprise Question: 'Would you be surprised if this patient dies in the next year?'

In the table is a suggested timeframe for Medicare initiatives and the associated MBS items. Additional consultations can be inserted to address unplanned care needs. For practices participating in the Palliative Care Outcomes Collaborative (PCOC), it is recommended that PCOC assessments be undertaken at appointment indicated.



Palliative care planning in general practice

- The practice nurse can assist GPs with planning palliative care appointments and reviews.
- Set up reminders for the Medicare initiatives and book appointments ahead of time.
- Schedule longer appointments for planned services and to explore end of life needs.
- Undertake Advance Care Planning and end of life care discussions as an ongoing conversation.
- Visit the MBS website to consider relevant Practice Incentives Payments.
- All services and care arrangements are at the discretion of the treating GP and this document serves as a guide only.

Suggested Palliative Care Appointment Schedule

Timeframe	Medicare initiative as clinically required	Palliative Care Considerations	MBS items	Rebate 100% Dec 2023
0 weeks	75+ yr. health assessment	Prognostic Surprise Question. Introduce ACP. Provided annually to eligible patients. PCOC Assessment	701 - 707	\$65.30
2nd week	GP Management Plan	Patients with chronic disease or terminal illness. Continue ACP Consider NSW Ambulance Palliative Care Plan	721	\$158.80
	Team Care Arrangement	Requires at least 3 providers, including GP to collaborate on care. Entitles patient to Medicare allied health services, 5 per year.	723	\$125.85
3rd week	GP Mental Health Treatment Plan	Use DSM – 5. Select item based on time & GP training.	2700-2717	\$78.95
1st month	Multidisciplinary Case Conference	At least one medical condition present for at least six months, or terminal. Organised by GP, 20-40 mins, requires 2 other providers in real time.	739	\$133.10
2nd month	Domiciliary Medication Management Review	Referral to eligible pharmacist to maximise community patient's benefit from medication regimen, after the second patient consultation. Generally 1 per year.	900	\$170.45
4th month	Level D Consultation	Continue ACP & symptom management. At least 40 minute consultation. PCOC Assessment	44	\$118.00
5th month	Review GP Mental Health Care Plan	4 weeks to 6 months after preparation of plan, review referral feedback and progress against care goals.	2712	\$78.95
6th month	GP Management Plan Review	Discuss progress against goals and actions. PCOC Assessment	732	\$79.30
	Review Team Care Arrangement	Discuss progress with team members. Claim item twice in same day if services are separate and times recorded.	739	\$133.10
8th month	Multidisciplinary Case Conference	Organised by GP, 15-20 minutes, GP + 2 other providers in real time.	735	\$77.85
5 per year	Practice Nurse Care Plan Monitoring	GP management plan in place. Maximum 5 services per patient annually. PCOC Assessment	10997	\$13.20
After 12 months	Repeat above schedule as clinically required			

Further information

Medicare Benefits Schedule

mbsonline.gov.au

Practice Incentives Program

www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/PIP-QI_Incentive_guidance

The Palliative Care Outcome Collaborative (PCOC)

ahsri.uow.edu.au/pcoc/index.html

MPHN HealthPathways

murrumbidgee.communityhealthpathways.org

Caresearch

caresearch.com.au/caresearch/tabid/3648/Default.aspx

Advance Care Planning Australia

advancecareplanning.org.au