

gpns Practice Nurse Handbook (2009): Overview of August 2010 update

The August 2010 update primarily reflects the 1 May 2010 changes to the MBS item numbers. Key changes include:

Chapter 7: Chronic Disease Management

The Department of Health and Ageing is removing references to Enhanced Primary Care (EPC) in the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS). The GP Enhanced Primary Care (EPC) care planning items were removed from the MBS in 2005 and replaced by the Chronic Disease Management (CDM) items (721-731). The term 'EPC plan' is now obsolete.

Key changes include:

- a new section introducing the National Chronic Disease strategy and the seven national health priority areas. The eligibility requirements for the CDM items are unchanged, including the allied health services for people with chronic disease.
- a new 'at a glance' chart showing MBS items relevant to practice nurses.

Chapter 8: Health Assessments

Health assessment items have been re-structured and the fees rationalised. **Four new time-based items** have replaced 10 health assessments.

A new chart outlines how the following health assessments will be undertaken under these items:

- Healthy Kids Check
- 45-year old health assessment
- type 2 diabetes risk evaluation
- older persons health assessment
- comprehensive medical assessment for a permanent resident of an aged care facility
- health assessment for a person with an intellectual disability
- health assessment for a refugee or humanitarian entrant.

In addition, the four Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's health assessment items have been **collapsed into one item** with no designated time or complexity requirements and no distinction between an assessment provided in or out of consulting rooms. The length of the health assessment is at the medical practitioner's discretion. This new item covers the child, adult and older person's health assessments for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The health assessment item for services provided by a practice nurse or registered Aboriginal health worker on behalf of a medical practitioner will be moved to a new group (M12) and consequently has a new item number (10986).

Chapter 9: Chronic Disease Initiatives

The HMR flow chart on page 48 has been simplified.

Chapter 14 (.5): Medicare and the Medicare Benefits Schedule

Changes include clarification of the Levels of GP consultation and a new desktop guide to MBS items.