

# Changes to Better Access & Chronic Disease Management Services for Residential Aged Care



## Changes to Better Access criteria for Residential Aged Care Facility Residents

From 10 December 2020 until 30 June 2022, eligibility requirements for the Better Access initiative will be expanded to allow for residents of Residential Aged Care Facilities (RACF) to access up to 20 individual psychological services each calendar year, where their general practitioner or psychiatrist determines they would benefit from mental health support. If a person's residential aged care subsidy covers mental health treatment, it is intended that the aged care provider should remain responsible for the service.

There are initial consultation items (10 rebates) and subsequent session items (10 rebates) as well as a flag fall fee that can be applied in relation to the first patient you see each time you attend a residential aged care facility.

### First Patient Flag Fall Fees

For the first patient you see at a RACF you can claim a flag fall amount plus the standard attendance, if you attend to the patient at the residential aged care facility. This amount is intended to reflect the costs allied health practitioners incur when providing professional services in residential aged care facilities. You can only claim this flag fall fee for the first client you see at a RACF.

## Changes to Chronic Disease Management Services for Care Recipients of a Residential Aged Care Facility

New Medicare Items have been released from 10 December 2020 until 30 June 2022 through the Allied Health Chronic Disease Management Services (CDMS) for Care Recipients of a Residential Aged Care Facility. This is a new program that allows for allied health services to be provided to residents of Aged Care Facilities and allows for some long consults for initial individual allied health chronic disease management services and initial Indigenous follow up services. It also allows for care recipients in residential aged care facilities affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, or the measures taken to contain its spread, to access allied health group services via telehealth or telephone.

### Allied health services for Indigenous Australians in RACF

There are 5 new item numbers for providing psychological services to Indigenous Australians in a RACF with a maximum of 5 sessions (including 1 initial appointment- item number 93557) per client in a 12 month period.

**Please visit [MBS online](#) for the full item details.**

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## QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

SERVICE	INITIAL SESSION MEDICARE ITEMS	SUBSEQUENT SESSION MEDICARE ITEMS	TELEHEALTH ITEMS	PHONE ITEMS
<b>Better Access Psychologist 20-50 min</b>	93381 ( \$62)	93316 (\$62)		
<b>Better Access Psychologist 50+ min</b>	93382 (\$87.45)	93319 (\$87.45)		
<b>Better Access Clinical Psychologist 30-50 min</b>	93375 (\$87.45)	93312 (\$87.45)		
<b>Better Access Clinical Psychologist 50+ min</b>	93376 (\$128.40)	93313 (\$128.40)		
<b>Better Access Flag Fall</b>	90003 (\$40 claimable by psychologist)			
<b>Chronic Disease Management Services</b>	93512 (\$81.90) 30 min+ (1 initial session only)	93535 (\$54.60) 20 min+	93537 (\$54.60) 20 min+	93538 (\$54.60) 20 min+
<b>Chronic Disease Management Flag Fall</b>	90004 (\$41.25 claimable by psychologist)			
<b>Indigenous Australian Services</b>	93557 (\$81.90) 30 min+ (1 initial session only)	93590 (\$54.60) 20 min+	93592 (\$54.60) 20 min+	93593 (\$54.60) 20 min+
<b>Indigenous Australian Services Flag Fall</b>	90004 (\$41.25 claimable by psychologist)			

### Further Information

For more information on eligibility criteria & explanatory notes please visit [MBS online - December 2020 News](#)

AAPi recommends you lookup each item number prior to using in order to understand the eligibility conditions and requirements. Each scheme has its own reporting requirements and obligations. Of particular importance is the requirement for reporting after the initial session for Chronic Disease and Indigenous items, as well as upon completion of the treatment block. These items are considered team care items and require frequent communication with the referrer.