



## Medicare Rebates for Psychology Services

We are able to process your Medicare claim through our system. You will need to pay the full amount of the consultation fee and we will then lodge your claim and deposit the rebate into your cheque or savings account. Please make sure to add your Medicare card and a debit card to the Consent form in order for us to process your claim.

Clients must determine whether they are going to claim their consultation/assessment fees through either one of the Medicare programs or their Private Health fund. Please note that Private Health funds vary widely in the amount of rebate that can be claimed and you should contact your insurer about this. You are unable to use Medicare and your Private Health insurance for the same consultation.

Unfortunately, some of our clients have attended a session at our clinic for either counselling or an assessment under the wrong impression that their referral was valid for a Medicare rebate. When you visit your Health Professional please be very clear about what you are seeking (see below) and ask them to write a referral letter including the following information: client's name, client's date of birth, client's address, reason for referral, the number of sessions requested, the referring practitioners' Medicare Provider Number, and the referring practitioner's signature.

## Mental Health Care Plan (Better Access Initiative)

This plan must be obtained through a General Practitioner (GP), Paediatrician, or Psychiatrist. We would appreciate if this paperwork is uploaded in the intake form or consent form prior to your first consultation to assist with the administration of your billing.

In order for the MHCP referral to be valid, we require a referral letter from your GP, Paediatrician, or Psychiatrist. The referral letter must include the following information: client's name, client's date of birth, client's address, the reason for referral, the request for services under Better Access, the number of sessions requested, the referring practitioners' Medicare Provider Number, and the referring practitioner's signature.

The plan allows you to claim a rebate for up to 10 sessions in a calendar year. A review by the referring GP, Paediatrician, or Psychiatrist is required after the first 6 sessions.

The Medicare rebate per 50 minute consultation with a Generalist Psychologist is \$89.65.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Mental Health Care Plan does not cover the assessment of Autism. The plan also does not cover specific counselling of Autism (as it is not defined as a mental

health disorder), but it does cover frequently observed mental health issues such as Anxiety, Depression, and sleep problems.

The Medicare Safety Net is designed to protect high users of health services from large out-of-pocket expenses. More information can be found on the [Medicare website](#).

## **Medicare rebates for Autism and Pervasive Developmental Disorders (PDD) (Helping Children with Autism package)**

A number of services specific to children with Autism or other Pervasive Developmental Disorders (PDDs) are eligible for Medicare rebates if they are provided as part of a Diagnosis and/or Treatment Plan established by a Paediatrician or Psychiatrist.

### **PDD Assessment Plan for Diagnostic Assessment**

Psychologists can provide a total of four services per child to collaborate with a Paediatrician or Psychiatrist on the assessment and diagnosis of Autism and PDDs. The child must be under 13 years old and have been referred by a Paediatrician who has provided any MBS service covering items 110 through to 131, or a Psychiatrist who has provided any MBS service covering items 296 through to 370 (except item 359). At our clinic this item only covers the child's assessment session with a Psychologist – the total rebate for this session is \$89.65.

### **PDD Treatment Plan**

Psychologists can provide intervention services following the diagnosis of Autism or any other PDD. The child must be under 15 years old and must have been under 13 years at the time the PDD Treatment plan was prepared. This plan can be prepared by a Paediatrician (MBS item 135) or a Psychiatrist (MBS item 289). Twenty services in total are eligible for the Medicare rebate - any combination of Psychology, Speech or Occupational Therapy. The rebate at our clinic is \$89.65 per session.

## **Private Health Insurance rebates**

Some psychological therapy services may be eligible for rebates through your Private Health Insurance extras cover. Please contact your insurance provider to confirm your eligibility for rebates. Upon payment of your fees, Advanced Psychology will provide you with a receipt that you can submit to your health insurer for a rebate.

Clients must determine whether they are going to claim their consultation/assessment fees through either one of the Medicare programs or their Private Health fund. Please note that Private Health funds vary widely in the amount of rebate that can be claimed and you should contact your insurer about this. You are unable to use Medicare and your Private Health insurance for the same consultation.

## **National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)**

Clients who have NDIS packages may use their funding to cover or partially cover the fees for services at our clinic if their package is self-managed.

The funding category that can be used to claim Psychology services at our clinic is Capacity Building - Improved Daily Living. The item code is 15\_054\_0128\_1\_3 Assessment, Recommendation, Therapy, or Training - Psychology.

**The Psychologists at our clinic are not registered with NDIA as providers of services.** Therefore, clients who have packages managed directly by the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) are unable to use their NDIS funds to pay for services at our clinic.