



# Quick reference guide

## Practice nurse items—basic principles for claiming under Medicare

This guide explains the key Medicare requirements for claiming practice nurse items 10993–10999.

### Key points for MBS items 10993, 10996 and 10997<sup>†</sup>

Item	Key points
Immunisation—10993	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must be a vaccine included on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods which includes all vaccines listed in the current edition of the Australian Immunisation Handbook.</li> <li>• You cannot claim for injections such as vitamin B12 or depot antipsychotic medicine.</li> <li>• You cannot claim if administered under a Commonwealth or state funded immunisation service.</li> </ul>
Wound management—10996	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You can claim for treatment of a patient's wound (other than normal aftercare).</li> <li>• You do not need to be present during the treatment of the wound. However, you must conduct an initial assessment of the patient in order to give the practice nurse instructions in relation to the treatment of the wound.</li> </ul>
Monitoring and support for a person with chronic disease—10997	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can claim up to five (5) services per patient per calendar year.</li> <li>• Must only be accessed for a patient with a GP Management Plan, Team Care Arrangements or Multidisciplinary Care Plan (items 721, 723, 729, 731, 732).</li> <li>• The service must be consistent with the scope of the GP Management Plan, Team Care Arrangements, or Multidisciplinary Care Plan.</li> </ul>

### Key points for MBS items 10994, 10995, 10998 and 10999<sup>†</sup>

Item	Claiming requirement	Age requirements	Preventative check required
10994	As often as considered medically necessary.	Nil	Yes, at least one.
10995	Patient has not had a cervical smear in the last four years.	20 to 69 years inclusive	Yes, at least one.
10998	As often as considered medically necessary.	Nil	No.
10999	Patient has not had a cervical smear in the last four years.	20 to 69 years inclusive	No.

<sup>†</sup>You can only claim the above items if the practice nurse provides them to outpatients and they are provided on behalf of and under the supervision of a medical practitioner who retains responsibility for the health, safety and clinical outcomes of the patient.

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## **Billing a professional attendance item and practice nurse items**

Some practice nurse items contain specific information on the circumstances in which you can claim them with a professional attendance item.

Where there are no specific requirements, you can claim a professional attendance item with a nurse practice item, provided the attendance is medically necessary and would be accepted by your peers as being appropriate for the management of the patient.

Where this occurs, you can claim only the time and complexity of the personal attendance with the patient against the professional attendance item. You cannot include time spent by the practice nurse with the patient when determining the duration of the attendance item.

## **Important**

- The practice nurse must comply with relevant state/territory requirements in terms of their qualifications and training to be able to provide these items. If you are unsure of these requirements, you should refer to the practice nurse peak body for advice.
- For information relating to Nursing and for links to peak nursing bodies refer to the Department of Health and Ageing website by visiting [www.health.gov.au](http://www.health.gov.au) > **Nursing**

We strongly recommend that health professionals refer to the latest Medicare Benefits Schedule for more information about these items, including the explanatory notes.

More information is available from [www.mbsonline.gov.au](http://www.mbsonline.gov.au)

## **For more information**

Call **132 150\***

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\* Call charges apply.