

**Australian Government
Department of Health & Ageing**

**GP MENTAL HEALTH CARE
MEDICARE ITEMS**

Questions & Answers

December 2007 

~~from their GP through the new GP Mental Health Care Consultation item or standard consultation items.~~

~~7.3 What should I do if I've started (but not completed) a 3 Step Mental Health Process for a patient?~~

~~The 3 Step Mental Health Process trigger items ran in parallel with the GP Mental Health Care items from 1 November 2006 to 30 April 2007 to allow GPs to complete and claim for work started but not finalised by 1 November 2006.~~

~~The 3 Step Mental Health Process incentive payment and associated MBS trigger items were withdrawn on 30 April 2007.~~

~~From 1 May 2007, claims for completion of a 3 Step Mental Health Process can only be processed where the 3 Step Mental Health Process was completed by 30 April 2007.~~

~~7.4 If I'm managing a patient using a 3 Step Mental Health Process can I refer them to the same services available for GP Mental Health Care Plan patients?~~

~~No. To be eligible for referral to the Medicare rebateable services associated with the GP Mental Health Care Plan, a patient must be managed under either a GP Mental Health Care Plan (item 2710) or a referred psychiatrist assessment and management plan (item 291).~~

~~Patients being managed under a 3 Step Mental Health Process are also able to be referred to appropriately trained (Level 2 trained) GPs for GP Focussed Psychological Strategy services.~~

~~Patients may be referred for other medical treatment and services under normal GP referral arrangements at any time.~~

8. CHRONIC DISEASE MANAGEMENT (CDM) ITEMS

8.1 The CDM items are still available. Should I still use them?

The Chronic Disease Management (CDM) Medicare items continue to be available for patients with chronic medical conditions, including patients needing multidisciplinary care. The CDM items have not changed.

From 1 November 2006, patients with a mental disorder only, who require a care plan to be prepared, should be managed under the new GP Mental Health Care items (items 2710, 2712 and 2713). It would not be appropriate for a patient with only a mental health disorder to have both a GP Mental Health Care Plan and a GP Management Plan.

Where a patient has a mental disorder as well as significant co-morbidities and complex needs requiring team-based care, the GP is able to use both the CDM items (for team-based care) and the GP Mental Health Care items.

The GP should consider whether it is necessary to develop two separate care plans. As a general principle the creation of multiple plans should be avoided, unless the patient clearly requires an additional plan for the management of a separate medical condition.

8.2 What if I've prepared a GP Management Plan (item 721) for a patient with a mental disorder?

For patients with a mental disorder who have a GP Management Plan (item 721), GPs can continue to manage the patient using the CDM items and standard consultation items.

GPs will now also have the option of using the GP Mental Health Care Consultation item (item 2713) for the ongoing management of the patient.

8.3 What if I've prepared a GP Management Plan (item 721) for a patient with a separate chronic medical condition?

Where a patient has a separate chronic medical condition, it may be appropriate to manage the patient's medical condition through a GP Management Plan, and to manage the patient's mental disorder through a GP Mental Health Care Plan (item 2710). In this case, both items can be used.

The GP should consider whether it is necessary to develop two separate care plans. As a general principle the creation of multiple plans should be avoided, unless the patient clearly requires an additional plan for the management of a separate medical condition.

8.4 If I have a patient with a GP Mental Health Care Plan, and they have complex needs, can I access item 723 (Team Care Arrangements)?

Where a patient has a mental disorder as well as significant co-morbidities and complex needs requiring team-based care, the GP is able to use both the CDM items (for team-based care) and the GP Mental Health Care items.

The GP should consider whether it is necessary to develop two separate care plans. As a general principle the creation of multiple plans should be avoided, unless the patient clearly requires an additional plan for the management of a separate medical condition.

9. TRAINING

9.1 Do I need to have completed training to access the GP Mental Health Care items?

All GPs are able to use the GP Mental Health Care items. Although it is not mandatory, it is strongly recommended that GPs providing mental health care using the GP Mental Health Care items have completed appropriate mental health training