

## Telehealth items applicable to specialist consultations – COVID-19

The new telehealth items offer the same MBS fee as the equivalent item number indicated below, and **must be bulk billed**.

These new telehealth item numbers are available from 13 March to 30 September 2020 but may be extended on review of the situation.

Please note the following wording which may significantly limit the applicability of these items to ophthalmic consultations:

**Telehealth attendance** means a professional attendance by video conference where the health practitioner *has the capacity to provide the full service through this means safely and in accordance with professional standards*

### **Definitions and eligibility**

**Patient at risk of COVID-19 virus** means a person that:

- (a) has been diagnosed with COVID-19 virus but who is not a patient of a hospital; or
- (b) has been required to isolate themselves in quarantine in accordance with home isolation guidance issued by Australian Health Protection Principal Committee; or
- (c) is considered more susceptible to the COVID-19 virus being a person who is:
  - (i) at least 70 years old; or
  - (ii) at least 50 years old and is of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent; or
  - (iii) pregnant; or
  - (iv) a parent of a child under 12 months; or
  - (v) already under treatment for chronic health conditions or is immune compromised.

**A health professional at risk for COVID-19** means a person that:

- a. has been diagnosed with COVID-19 but who is not a patient of a hospital; or
- b. has been required to isolate themselves in quarantine in accordance with home isolation guidance issued by the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee.

**Telehealth attendance** means a professional attendance by video conference where the health practitioner:

- (a) has the capacity to provide the full service through this means safely and in accordance with professional standards; and
- (b) is satisfied that it is clinically appropriate to provide the service to the patient; and
- (c) maintains a visual and audio link with the patient; and
- (d) is satisfied that the software and hardware used to deliver the service meets the applicable laws for security and privacy.

### **Specialist telehealth attendances - summary** (see p2 for full item descriptors)

Existing item #	COVID-19 telehealth #	Summarised descriptor	Schedule fee
104	91822	Initial telehealth attendance	\$88.25
105	91823	Subsequent telehealth attendance	\$44.35

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## Schedule 1 – relevant services

### Division 1.1 – Services and fees – specialist attendances via video conference

<b>Group A40 – COVID-19 – medical practitioner telehealth services</b>		
<b>Subgroup 4 – COVID-19 – specialist attendances telehealth services</b>		
<b>Item</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Fee (\$)</b>
91822	<p>Telehealth attendance for a person by a specialist in the practice of the specialist's specialty if:</p> <p>(a) the attendance is where:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(i) the person is a patient at risk of COVID-19 virus; or</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(ii) the specialist is a health professional at risk of COVID-19 virus; and</p> <p>(b) the attendance follows referral of the patient to the specialist; and</p> <p>(c) the attendance was of more than 5 minutes in duration; and</p> <p>(d) the patient is not an admitted patient; and</p> <p>(e) the service is bulk-billed.</p> <p>Where the attendance was other than a second or subsequent attendance as part of a single course of treatment.</p>	88.25
91823	<p>Telehealth attendance for a person by a specialist in the practice of the specialist's specialty if:</p> <p>(a) the attendance is where:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(i) the person is a patient at risk of COVID-19 virus; or</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(ii) the specialist is a health professional at risk of COVID-19 virus; and</p> <p>(b) the attendance follows referral of the patient to the specialist; and</p> <p>(c) the attendance was of more than 5 minutes in duration; and</p> <p>(d) the patient is not an admitted patient; and</p> <p>(e) the service is bulk-billed.</p> <p>Where the attendance is after the first attendance as part of a single course of treatment.</p>	44.35