

Quick guide to MBS rules and exceptions

Current as at October 2024

Attendance items provided on the same day as a Chronic Disease Management (CDM) service

You can't bill CDM items and certain attendance items for the same patient on the same day. If you bill a CDM and restricted attendance item, Medicare will only pay a benefit for the CDM item number.

CDM item numbers [721](#), [723](#) and [732](#) cannot be billed with the following attendance item numbers:

Routine hours consultations	
In surgery	Item numbers 3 , 23 , 36 and 44
Home / Institution / Hospital visits (excluding RACF)	Item numbers 4 , 24 , 37 and 47
After hours consultations - urgent	Item number 585 , 599
After hours consultations - non-urgent	
In the surgery	Item numbers 5000 , 5020 , 5040 , 5060
Home / Institution (excluding RACF)	Item numbers 5003 , 5023 , 5043 , 5063
Telehealth consultations	
Telehealth phone attendance	Item numbers 91890 , 91891
Telehealth video attendance	Item numbers 91800 , 91801 , 91802

[Click here](#) for the full list of restrictions of co-claiming.

Multiple attendances on the same day

You can bill multiple attendances for the same patient on the same day if:

- » They're separate attendances with a reasonable lapse of time between them.
- » The subsequent attendances aren't a continuation of the attendances.

Scenario 1: you see a patient to treat a sore throat in the morning, the same patient returns at 4pm the same day seeking treatment for a sprained ankle.

- » You can bill the appropriate attendance item for each attendance.
- » The second attendance was not a continuation of the earlier consultation.
- » There was a reasonable lapse of time between the two visits.

Helpful tip: make note of the time of each attendance on the account or include service text for electronic claims.

Scenario 2: you see a patient and give a prescription for an Implanon contraceptive implant. The patient returns to have the implant inserted after the pharmacy dispenses it.

- » You can only bill one attendance item, the second visit was a continuation of the first attendance.

Biopsies for diagnosis (item 30071 and 30072)

- » You can bill MBS item [30071](#) for a diagnostic biopsy of skin or item [30072](#) for a diagnostic biopsy of mucous membrane.
- » If you perform multiple biopsies on separate lesions on the one day, make sure you note on the claim or account either:
 - o 'separate sites'
 - o the exact location of the biopsy.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccines support services

GPs and qualified health professionals can use items 93624-93661 to assess a patient's suitability to get a COVID-19 vaccine.

- » This service is free to patients and the MBS items must be bulk billed.
- » Vaccine support items can't be co-claimed with:
 - o Bulk-billing incentive items [10990](#), [10991](#), [10992](#), [75855](#), [75856](#), [75857](#), [75858](#).
 - o Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner immunisation item [10988](#).

You can co-claim COVID-19 vaccine suitability assessment items with normal attendance items. For example, item number [23](#) where the patient both:

- » attends for an unrelated condition
- » is eligible for the vaccine.

Make a note on the account or include service text for electronic claims. Suitable text may include:

- » times of each attendance
- » 'unrelated to COVID-19 assessment' on the attendance item.

Disclaimer: This is a guide only. Please refer to the [MBS website](#) or contact Services Australia for more information.