Medicare Healthy Kids Check

One-time health check for three-year-olds

phn NORTHERN QUEENSLAND
An Australian Government Initiative

General practice quick reference cheat sheet

From 1 November 2026, Medicare-eligible children aged three years can receive a Medicare Healthy Kids Check using the existing time-tiered health assessment items. The service is available **once per child per lifetime**.

Eligible patients

- Medicare-eligible children, aged three years.
- Yet to complete the one-time health check; it can only be done once.
- Opportunistically or via recall.
- May be completed when concerns are identified as part of routine preventative care.

MBS billing guide

Use the appropriate **Health Assessment item** based on consultation time:

For general practitioners

MBS item	Time
701	Brief (< 30 mins)
703	Standard (30 – 44 mins)
705	Long (45 – 59 mins)
707	Prolonged (60+ mins)

The majority of Healthy Kids Checks are expected to fall within the **703 or 705** time categories, depending on developmental screening requirements and parent discussion.

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NQPHN acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as Australia's First Nation Peoples and the Traditional Custodians of this land. We respect their continued connection to land and sea, country, kin, and community. We also pay our respect to their Elders past, present, and emerging as the custodians of knowledge and lore.

ISO 9001 QUALITY

What must be documented

Documentation should demonstrate that the assessment included the required components of a health assessment.

History

What to record

- Medical history
- Previous hospitalisations
- Medications
- Allergies
- Immunisation status
- Family/social history
- Early childhood education attendance
- Nutrition
- Physical activity
- Screen time
- Sleep
- Toileting
- Parent concerns

Developmental assessment

What to include as part of the document assessment

- Communication and language
- Gross motor skills
- Fine motor skills
- Social interaction
- Emotional development
- Play and learning skills
- Behaviour

Physical examination

What to document

- Height
- Weight
- Growth chart review
- BMI (where appropriate)
- Vision
- Hearing
- Oral health
- General examination findings

Assessment and plan

What to record

- Summary of findings
- Developmental concerns identified
- Advice provided
- Management plan
- Referrals made
- Follow-up arrangements

Recommended clinical tools

Many practices may choose to incorporate validated screening tools where clinically appropriate, such as:

- Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ)
- Parents' Evaluation of Developmental Status (PEDS)
- Growth centile charts
- Vision screening tools
- Hearing assessment questions.

These tools can support documentation and provide objective evidence of developmental assessment.

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Suggested clinical note template

Healthy Kids check at three years of age

History

- **Immunisations up to date** (yes/no)
- **Parent concerns** (text field)
- **Medical history** (text field)
- **Sleep** (text field)
- **Diet** (text field)
- **Physical activity** (text field)
- **Screen time** (text field)
- **Childcare/kindergarten attendance** (text field)
- **Toileting** (text field)

Development

- **Communication** (text field)
- **Gross motor** (text field)
- **Fine motor** (text field)
- **Social** (text field)
- **Behaviour** (text field)
- **Learning/play** (text field)

Examination

- **Weight** (text field)
- **Height** (text field)
- **BMI** (text field)
- **Growth tracking** (text field)
- **Vision** (text field)
- **Hearing** (text field)
- **Oral health** (text field)
- **General examination** (text field)

Assessment

- **Weight** (text field)
- **Height** (text field)
- **BMI** (text field)
- **Growth tracking** (text field)
- **Vision** (text field)
- **Hearing** (text field)
- **Oral health** (text field)
- **General examination** (text field)

Plan

- **Development age appropriate** (yes/no)
- **Concerns identified** (text field)
- **Advice provided** (text field)

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Practice recall search

Search for patients who:

- are aged **three years** to **three years and 11 months**
- are active patients
- have not completed a Healthy Kids Check
- have no future health assessment booked.

Continuous quality improvement measure

Measure	Target
Eligible children identified	100%
Recall completed	>90%
Appointment booked	>70%
Health check completed	>60%
Appropriate referrals actioned	100%

Reception script

"Your child is now eligible for a Medicare Healthy Kids Check with the GP. This assessment reviews their growth, development, hearing, vision, and overall wellbeing to identify any support they may need before starting school. Would you like to book an appointment?"