

Use of item 2710 for bushfire victims

The Mental Health Care Plan items (2710, 2712 and 2713) are for patients diagnosed with a disorder that significantly interferes with an individual's cognitive, emotional or social abilities.

As you are aware, restrictions apply to items 2710 (Preparation of a GP Mental health Care Plan) and 2712 (Review of GP Mental Health Care Plan) which limit payment under item 2710 to one service in a 12 month period, and item 2712 to one service in a 3 month period. Payments are not limited for a GP consultation for a patient in relation to a mental disorder lasting at least 20 minutes claimed under item 2713 (GP Mental Health Care Consultation).

[Steve Sant](#) put forward a strong case that victims of the Victorian bush fires, due to the trauma and stress experienced, would meet the eligibility requirements and qualify for a new Mental Health Care Plan.

For the purpose of preparing a Mental Health Care Plan, Medicare Australia agrees that unforeseen post traumatic stress disorder or any other psychological disorders would be an acceptable diagnosis for people affected by the Victorian bush fires or Queensland flood affected areas.

Online or manual claims

The GP must annotate "Bush fire" or "Flood", on claims issued (or notate it in the text field for online claims) so that one additional care plan item can be accepted. The 12 month restriction will then apply from that date.

Easyclaim channel

The Easyclaim channel does not cater for the payment of an additional GP Mental health care plan within 12 months. The channel response will be to claim through an alternate claim channel.

A bulk bill claim through Easyclaim will be directed to an operator who will be able to assess and make payment on the additional care plan.

If you have any questions, please feel free to ring me.

Jenny

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Refer also:

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/pacd-gp-mental-health-care-pdf-descriptors>