



## Health checks for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people MBS Item 715

### Key Points:

- Comprehensive health check for people of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin, undertaken by a medical practitioner.
- Aboriginal Health Workers, practice nurses and other health professionals may assist.
- All ages (\$196.65)

### Resources

- [Fact sheet](#)
- [Health Assessment Proforma](#)

### Other Resources/Links

- Link to [health check proforma](#)
- Follow up **allied health services** for people who have had an MBS Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health check [http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/allied\\_health\\_ATSI\\_descent](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/allied_health_ATSI_descent)
- Follow up **practice nurse services** for people who have had an MBS Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health check [http://www.sdgp.com.au/client\\_images/254520.pdf](http://www.sdgp.com.au/client_images/254520.pdf)
- Medicare Australia – indigenous health <http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/provider/patients/indigenous.jsp>
- Department of Human Services – Koori health [www.health.vic.gov.au/koori](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/koori)
- MBS Online <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/mbsonline/publishing.nsf/Content/Medicare-Benefits-Schedule-MBS-1>
- Electronic templates to Import into your software:  
<http://www.monashdivision.com.au/resources/templates.htm> or  
<http://www.nevdgp.org.au/?content=14&PHPSESSID=450227ebe1dee8d5b99683f467be9c20#Health%20Assess>

For more information or support please contact the program support staff at Dandenong Casey General Practice Association on 8792-1900

*Note, all efforts are made to keep this information accurate and up to date however Medicare may change their policies with little or no notice. You are advised to search the specific item explanatory notes at <http://www9.health.gov.au/mbs/search.cfm>*

Updated May 2010



## Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) Health Assessment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People (MBS Item 715)

### Fact Sheet

The aim of this MBS health assessment item is to help ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people receive primary health care matched to their needs, by encouraging early detection, diagnosis and intervention for common and treatable conditions that cause morbidity and early mortality.

For the purpose of this item, a person is an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person if they, or their parent or carer, identify them as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent.

The MBS health assessment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people covers the full age spectrum, and should be used for health assessments for the following age groups:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who are less than 15 years old
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults who are aged fifteen years and over but under the age of 55 years
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander older people who are aged 55 years and over

#### **Components of the MBS Health Assessment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People**

The health assessment includes an assessment of the patient's health, including their physical, psychological and social wellbeing. It also assesses what preventive health care, education and other assistance should be offered to the patient to improve their health and wellbeing. It complements existing services already undertaken by a range of health care providers. This health assessment must include:

- information collection, including taking a patient history and undertaking examinations and investigations as required;
- making an overall assessment of the patient;
- recommending appropriate interventions;
- providing advice and information to the patient;
- keeping a record of the health assessment, and offering the patient a written report about the health assessment, with recommendations about matters covered by the health assessment; and
- offering the patient's carer (if any, and if the medical practitioner considers it appropriate and the patient agrees) a copy of the report or extracts of the report relevant to the carer.

As part of a health assessment, a medical practitioner may develop a simple strategy for the good health of the patient. The strategy should identify any services the patient needs and the actions the patient, or parent or carer, should take. It should be developed in collaboration with the patient, or parent or carer, and documented in the written report on the assessment that is offered to the patient, and/or patient's carer.

If, after receiving the health assessment, a patient who is aged fifteen years and over but under the age of 55 years is identified as having a high risk of developing type 2 diabetes as determined by the Australian Type 2 Diabetes Risk Assessment Tool, the medical practitioner may refer that person to a subsidised lifestyle modification program.

## Eligible practitioners

This MBS health assessment item may only be claimed by a medical practitioner (including a general practitioner but not including a specialist or consultant physician).

The medical practitioner may only undertake the health assessment, after the patient, their parent or carer, has been given an explanation about what is involved and has given their consent.

A registered Aboriginal health worker or practice nurse can assist the medical practitioner in the information collection stage of the health assessment and with providing patients with information about recommended interventions at the direction of the medical practitioner.

## Restrictions on providing the MBS Health Assessment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People

This health assessment is an annual service. The minimum time allowed between services is nine (9) months. This allows flexibility for very remote communities, where medical practitioner visits may be less frequent and may make it more difficult to follow a consistent schedule of health assessments.

MBS Item 715 does not apply for services that are provided by any other Commonwealth or State funded services. However, where an exemption under subsection 19(2) of the *Health Insurance Act 1973* has been granted to an Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service or State/Territory Government health clinic, MBS item 715 can be claimed for services provided by medical practitioners salaried by or contracted to, the service or health clinic so long as all requirements of the item are met.

Medical practitioners should not conduct a separate consultation in conjunction with a health assessment unless it is clinically necessary (ie. the patient has an acute problem that needs to be managed separately from the assessment).

This MBS health assessment item is not available to people who are in-patients of a hospital or care recipients in a residential aged care facility.

## Guidelines and Resources

Medical practitioners are encouraged to utilise relevant guidelines and resources, such as:

- Information about MBS primary care items at [www.health.gov.au/mbsprimarycareitems](http://www.health.gov.au/mbsprimarycareitems) or phone the Medicare Australia provider enquiry line on 132 150.
- Item descriptors and explanatory notes at [www.health.gov.au/mbsonline](http://www.health.gov.au/mbsonline).
- The health assessment proformas available at <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/health-pacd-medicare-resource-kit>.
- "The National Guide to a Preventative Health Assessment in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples", prepared by the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) <http://www.naccho.org.au/Files/Documents/National%20guide%20to%20preventive%20health%20assessment.pdf>
- Fact Sheet: "The Identification of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People", prepared by The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) <http://www.racgp.org.au/Content/NavigationMenu/PracticeSupport/StandardsforGeneralPractices/RACGPStandards3rdEdFactSheets/200608Identificationofpatients.pdf>
- "Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Assessments – Barriers to Improving Uptake" prepared by Helen Kehoe and Ray W Lovett <http://www.racgp.org.au/afp/200812/200812kehoe.pdf>
- The Australian Type 2 Diabetes Risk Assessment Tool and information about lifestyle modification programs is available from <http://www.health.gov.au/preventionoftype2diabetes>



# Medicare Health Assessment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People (MBS Item 715)

## Adult Health Assessment (15-54)

Use of a specific form to record the results of the health assessment is not mandatory but the health assessment should cover the matters listed in the Explanatory Notes for the health assessment found at [www.health.gov.au/mbsonline](http://www.health.gov.au/mbsonline). The first page of this form can be used as a report of the health assessment.

Patient's Name ..... Male  Female  DOB: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_ or Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Aboriginal  Torres Strait Islander  Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

Work status.....

### Current contact details

Address.....

Phone.....

### Alternative contact details.....

Address.....

Phone.....

### Patient Consent

Explanation of health assessment given  Yes

Patient consent for health assessment given  Yes

Date consent was given: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

### Consent given for information to be collected by

Registered Aboriginal health worker

Practice nurse

### Previous health assessment

Has the patient had a previous health assessment?

No  Yes

Date of last health assessment (if known) \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

Service provided by DR.....

### PATIENT'S OVERALL HEALTH

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

### RISK FACTORS IDENTIFIED AND DISCUSSED WITH PATIENT

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

### TESTS UNDERTAKEN, RESULTS AND WHAT THEY MEAN

(some results may not be available)

TEST	AVAILABLE RESULTS & WHAT THEY MEAN

**Medicare Health Assessment for  
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People**

*Adult Health Assessment (15-54)*

STRATEGY FOR GOOD HEALTH: REQUIRED TREATMENT/SERVICES/HEALTH ADVICE

TREATMENT	HEALTH ADVICE	HEALTH SERVICES NEEDED

ACTION TO BE TAKEN BY PATIENT

.....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....

Next appointment with doctor:..... Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ Next Health Assessment: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

GP: Dr ..... GP's Signature: ..... Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

**MEDICAL HISTORY**

FAMILY RELATIONSHIP

Does the patient care for someone else? No  Yes

Is the patient cared for by someone else? No  Yes

CURRENT ISSUES	CURRENT RISK FACTORS

ALLERGIES/DRUG INTOLERANCE

.....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....

CURRENT MEDICATIONS (including prescription and over the counter and supplied by doctor without prescription)

.....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....

RELEVANT FAMILY MEDICAL HISTORY

.....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....

IMMUNISATION STATUS (referring to current age/sex schedule)

TYPE	DATE	TYPE	DATE

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

IDENTIFIED ISSUES	ACTION

NUTRITION

IDENTIFIED ISSUES	ACTION

ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND OTHER SUBSTANCE USE

IDENTIFIED ISSUES	ACTION

HEARING LOSS

IDENTIFIED ISSUES	ACTION

MOOD (depression and self harm risk)

IDENTIFIED ISSUES	ACTION

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

IDENTIFIED ISSUES	ACTION

OTHER MEDICAL HISTORY AS INDICATED FOR PATIENT

VISUAL ACUITY (recommended for over 40s)

IDENTIFIED ISSUES	ACTION

ENVIRONMENTAL AND LIVING CONDITIONS

IDENTIFIED ISSUES	ACTION

**Other history considered necessary by doctor or collector** (eg work environment)

IDENTIFIED ISSUES	ACTION

**MEDICAL EXAMINATION**

BLOOD PRESSURE:.....  PULSE RATE AND RHYTHM: Normal  Abnormal

IDENTIFIED ISSUES	ACTION

WEIGHT: ..... Height: ..... BMI: ..... Waist circumference (if indicated): .....

IDENTIFIED ISSUES	ACTION

# Medicare Health Assessment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People

## Adult Health Assessment (15-54)

GUMS AND DENTITION: Normal  Abnormal  .....

IDENTIFIED ISSUES	ACTION

EAR AND HEARING: Otoscopy  Whisper test (if indicated)

IDENTIFIED ISSUES	ACTION

URINALYSIS

IDENTIFIED ISSUES	ACTION

OTHER MEDICAL EXAMINATION – AS INDICATED FOR PATIENT

TRICHIASIS

IDENTIFIED ISSUES	ACTION

SKIN

IDENTIFIED ISSUES	ACTION

OTHER EXAMINATIONS CONSIDERED NECESSARY BY GP

EXAMINATION	IDENTIFIED ISSUES	ACTION

**INVESTIGATIONS AS REQUIRED**

INVESTIGATION	TESTS DONE	TESTS ORDERED	ARRANGEMENTS (eg referral details)
Fasting blood sugar	<input type="checkbox"/>	Date: ___/___/_____	
Lipids	<input type="checkbox"/>	Date: ___/___/_____	
Pap Smear	<input type="checkbox"/>	Date: ___/___/_____	
STI	<input type="checkbox"/>	Date: ___/___/_____	
Mammography	<input type="checkbox"/>	Date: ___/___/_____	
Other:.....			
.....			

**ASSESSMENT OF PATIENT**

(based on consideration of evidence from patient history, examination and results of any investigation)

EXISTING HEALTH ISSUES	IDENTIFIED RISK FACTORS

**INTERVENTION ACTION**

HEALTH ADVICE PROVIDED TO PATIENT

.....

.....

.....

.....

OTHER ACTION (if any)

.....

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.....

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