

Quick guide: MBS COVID-19 Vaccine Suitability Assessment Items – Modified Monash Area One (MMA1)

General Practitioner VR GP

| MBS Item Number | Dose and Time Period | Fee |
|-----------------|------------------------------|---------|
| 93624 | First Dose – Business Hours | \$30.75 |
| 93634 | First Dose – After Hours | \$42.90 |
| 93644 | Second Dose – Business Hours | \$24.25 |
| 93653 | Second Dose – After Hours | \$36.40 |

OMP - Other Medical Practitioners

| MBS Item Number | Dose and Time Period | Fee |
|-----------------|------------------------------|---------|
| 93626 | First Dose – Business Hours | \$24.00 |
| 93636 | First Dose – After Hours | \$34.00 |
| 93646 | Second Dose – Business Hours | \$17.50 |
| 93655 | Second Dose – After Hours | \$27.50 |

An accredited general practice that has completed two vaccine suitability assessment services for the same patient in a clinically appropriate timeframe is eligible for a payment under the Practice Incentives Program (PIP). The PIP COVID-19 Vaccine Incentive payment is set at \$10 per eligible patient, payable only once (that is, incentive payments will not be paid multiple times for services



provided to the same patient). Where a patient requires more than two COVID-19 assessment services, the additional service/s will not attract a further PIP incentive payment.

Can I provide more than two vaccine suitability assessment services to the same patient?

- Yes. A GP can bill Medicare for more than two MBS COVID-19 vaccine suitability assessment services for the same patient.
- For instance, a patient who is assessed as suitable to receive a COVID-19 vaccine, but who continues to have concerns about the vaccine and wants time to consider if they should receive it, may receive a suitability assessment service without choosing to have a vaccination. In this situation, even though the patient has not received a vaccination, the appropriate MBS COVID-19 suitability assessment item may be billed.
- If the patient returns at a later date, having decided that they do wish to receive a vaccination, a further suitability assessment would need to be undertaken, and billed to Medicare using the relevant item num

Can I co-claim the COVID-19 vaccine items with other general attendance items?

- Patients presenting with multiple clinical matters requiring attention should be encouraged to book a separate consultation, and preferably with their usual practice.
- There may be some circumstances where deferral of treatment is not feasible or in the patient's best interests; these include clinical matters where treatment cannot be deferred or opportunistic treatment for other conditions.
- Standard MBS multiple same-day attendance rules apply for COVID-19 vaccination-related services. Co-claiming is only permitted where another GP service is provided that is unrelated to the vaccine assessment item.
- Payment of benefit may be made for more than one attendance on a patient on the same day by the same GP, provided the subsequent attendances are not a continuation of the initial or earlier attendances. Examples of other GP services include but are not restricted to: a standard consultation for a different presenting problem; provision of time-tiered health assessment service; or completion or review of a chronic disease management plan.
- When seeking to co-claim for an unrelated attendance at the same time as a vaccine suitability assessment service, it is recommended that GPs include a note stating that "The additional service [MBS item...] is clinically relevant but not related to the vaccine suitability assessment service [MBS item...]."
- Before an additional attendance is provided to the patient, the practice must obtain and document the patient's informed financial consent to ensure that they understand there is no cost associated with the suitability assessment and/or the administration of the vaccine.
- Patients must also be informed if any other service that they receive on the same occasion will be bulk-billed or will be subject to a patient co-payment.

Where can I find more information?

- The MBS COVID-19 vaccine suitability assessment items, including item descriptors and explanatory note, will be available from MBS Online at



<http://www.mbsonline.gov.au/internet/mbsonline/publishing.nsf/Content/Home>, by searching for “COVID-19 vaccine suitability assessment”.

- You can also subscribe to future MBS updates by visiting MBS Online and clicking ‘Subscribe’. • COVID-19 National Health Plan resources for the general public, medical and health professionals and industry are available from the Australian Government Department of Health website at <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-national-health-plan-resources>
- The Department of Health provides an email advice service for providers seeking advice on interpretation of the MBS items and rules and the Health Insurance Act and associated regulations. If you have a query relating exclusively to interpretation of the Schedule, you should email askMBS@health.gov.au.
- Subscribe to ‘News for Health Professionals’ on the Services Australia website to receive regular news highlights at <https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/organisations/health-professionals/news/all>.
- If you are seeking advice in relation to Medicare billing, claiming, payments, or obtaining a provider number, please go to the Health Professionals page on the Services Australia website at <https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/organisations/health-professionals> or contact Services Australia on the Provider Enquiry Line – 13 21 50.