

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2011-2012, 15 February 2012

Question: E12-244

OUTCOME 3: Access to Medical Services

Topic: TELEHEALTH

Hansard Page: CA 89

Senator Boyce asked:

There are also additional payments made to recognise the relative inefficiency, so there was an increment applied to the specific items, but we will give you the details. Do those inefficiencies have items numbers? We will come back and confirm exactly how it works. They are paid 150 per cent of the schedule fee.

Answer:

The provider bills for both the standard MBS consultation item and the relevant telehealth item. This means that, when the two items are billed together, the total Schedule fee for a telehealth specialist consultation will be 150 per cent of the Schedule fee for the equivalent face-to-face service.

For example if a specialist provides a follow up telehealth consultation to an eligible patient, they can bill MBS items 105 (subsequent consultation) and 99 (telehealth). The Schedule fee is calculated by adding the fee for item 105 (\$42.20) and 50 per cent of the amount for item 99 (\$21.10) giving a total fee of \$63.30. The Medicare rebate is 85 per cent of the Schedule fee (\$53.85).

The 11 new telehealth items for specialist consultations are:  
99, 112, 149, 288, 389, 2820, 3015, 6016, 13210, 16399 and 17609.