

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2014 - 2015, 2/3 June 2014

Ref No: SQ14-000806

OUTCOME: 3 - Access to Medical and Dental Services

Topic: GP Co-payment and Mental Illness

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: McLucas, Jan

Question:

What item number is used for GP mental health care plans and reviews?

Answer:

There are four Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) item numbers that can be used by GPs to develop a mental health treatment plan under the Better Access to Psychiatrists, Psychologists and General Practitioners through the Medicare Benefits Schedule (Better Access) initiative. The use of the appropriate item number is dependent on whether or not the GP has completed mental health skills training and the duration of the consultation. The four item numbers are as follows:

Item Number	Item description	Time
2700	Preparation of a GP mental health treatment plan by a GP who has not undertaken skills training.	Must be at least 20 minutes but less than 40 minutes.
2701	Preparation of a GP mental health treatment plan by a GP who has not undertaken skills training.	Must be at least 40 minutes in duration.
2715	Preparation of a GP mental health treatment plan by a GP who has undertaken skills training.	Must be at least 20 minutes but less than 40 minutes.
2717	Preparation of a GP mental health treatment plan by a GP who has undertaken skills training.	Must be at least 40 minutes in duration.

MBS item number 2712 can be used by a GP to review a mental health treatment plan.