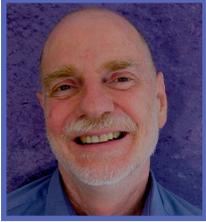


Fact sheet for Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS)



prepared by Richard Rigby

based on the fact sheet prepared by the Australian Psychological Society
further information can be obtained from www.psychology.org.au/members/Medicare/6.18_2.asp



Please Note:

To obtain the Medicare rebate, your doctor must have completed a Mental Health Care Plan.

medicare rebate for psychologists

Certain Medicare items attract a rebate for psychological treatment given by registered psychologists.

mental disorder

The Medicare term "Mental disorder" refers to a wide range of clinical disorders that significantly impact on a person's emotions, thoughts, social skills and decision-making. The wide variety of conditions recognized by Medicare include; Anxiety disorder, Depression, Adjustment disorder, Eating disorders, Alcohol & drug use disorders, Sleep problems, Post-traumatic stress disorder, Bereavement disorders and many others.

registered psychologist

All psychologists are legally required to register with the Psychologist Registration Board of Australia (overseen by AHPRA). My registration number is **PSY0001348167**

provider number

Medicare Australia also issues provider numbers to practitioners. These practitioners are able to provide services for which a Medicare rebate can be claimed. My provider number is **2669481A**.

referring doctors & rebate

In order to claim the rebate, you must be referred to a psychologist by a GP, psychiatrist or paediatrician. **Your doctor must complete a Mental Health Care Plan for you before you are eligible for a rebate.**

As a Clinical Psychologist, the main item number that I use for a one hour consultation is **80010**.

For you to be eligible for your Mental Health Care Plan rebate, Medicare requires that:

- You bring the doctor's letter of referral to our first session.
- The letter of referral needs to be made out to either "Richard Rigby" specifically or generically to "the psychologist"**

how many sessions?

Eligible patients can receive up to 10 individual services in a calendar year (renewing each January 1). Your referring doctor will assess your progress after the first six sessions, and can authorise a further 4 sessions in the calendar year, if required.

I am required to report back to the referring doctor about your progress in therapy. Unused appointments can be carried into the next year as part of the total of 10 services for which the patient is eligible in that calendar year. A referral from a doctor is valid for one year from date of issue.

payment

At the end of a session with me, you can pay by cash, credit card, EFTPOS or cheque. You may then submit your receipt to Medicare for the rebate. The rebate will return to you a partial reimbursement of that fee. My fee for a one hour session is **\$220** and the current Medicare rebate is **\$128.50**.

claiming the Medicare rebate

The government has not made the rebate claiming process easy. If you don't want to wait in a Centerlink queue, you have to claim through your smart phone or online.

How to claim Online

If you claim online, you will need a scanned copy of your receipt. It can be as a PDF or in some other approved format.

You must have a MyGov account. Once you are registered, then open MyGov web page > sign in > select "Services" > Click on "Medicare" > "Proceed to online account" > "Lodge a Medicare claim" > Make a claim > continue > click on "attach document" > drag your receipt document from your computer desktop into the box provided > proceed through several more steps.

safety net

You are responsible for paying any charges in excess of the Medicare rebate for items under this initiative. However, these out-of-pocket expenses will count towards both the original and the extended Medicare safety nets. Once you or your family reach the relevant threshold in the calendar year, Medicare benefits will **increase to 100% of the schedule fee** under the original safety net, and 80% of your total out-of-pocket expenses for out-of-hospital services under the extended Medicare safety net. The Medicare safety nets are designed to protect high users of health services from large out-of-pocket expenses.

private health insurance

Medicare has determined that you cannot claim against your private health insurance to top up the Medicare rebates for these services. You have to decide to either use **Medicare** or your **private health insurance** ancillary cover to pay for psychological services.

You can either access rebates from Medicare by following the claiming process described above, or claim where available on your insurer's ancillary benefits.

Kind wishes

Richard Rigby

post P O Box 1345 Kenmore Qld 4069

phone 07 3378 6267

fax 07 3378 7514

email richard@feel-good.com.au

web www.feel-good.com.au

Prepared April 2021