

Appendices

Appendix A: Better Access MBS Items

MBS ITEM	PROVIDER ITEM DESCRIPTION	SCHED. FEE	MBS REBATE
Consultant Psychiatry Items			
291*	Referred Patient Assessment and Management (45+ minute consultation)	\$408.80	\$347.50
293*	Review of Referred Patient Assessment and Management (30-45 min consult)	\$255.50	\$217.20
296	Initial Consultation on a New Patient — in rooms — (45+ minute consultation)	\$235.05	\$199.90
297	Initial Consultation on a New Patient — in hospital — (45+ minute consultation)	\$235.05	\$199.90
299	Initial Consultation on a New Patient — home visit — (45+ minute consultation)	\$281.15	\$239.00
GP Mental Health Care Items			
2710	GP Mental Health Care Plan	\$153.30	\$153.30
2712	Review of a GP Mental Health Care Plan	\$102.20	\$102.20
2713	GP Mental Health Consultation (20+ minute consultation)	\$67.45	\$67.45
Psychological Therapy Items			
80000	Psychological Therapy Service — in rooms — (30-50 minute consultation)	\$90.15	\$76.65
80005	Psychological Therapy Service — out of rooms — (30-50 minute consultation)	\$112.60	\$95.75
80010	Psychological Therapy Service — in rooms — (50+ minute consultation)	\$132.25	\$112.45
80015	Psychological Therapy Service — out of rooms — (50+ minute consultation)	\$154.75	\$131.55
80020	Psychological Therapy Group Session — 6 to 10 patients — (60+ minute consult)	\$33.60 / patient	\$28.60 / patient
Focussed Psychological Strategies — Allied Mental Health Items			
<i>General Psychologists</i>			
80100	FPS Service — in rooms — (20-50 minute consultation)	\$63.85	\$54.30
80105	FPS Service — out of rooms — (20-50 minute consultation)	\$86.80	\$73.80
80110	FPS Service — in rooms — (50+ minute consultation)	\$90.15	\$76.65
80115	FPS Service — out of rooms — (50+ minute consultation)	\$113.15	\$96.20
80120	FPS Service Group Session — 6 to 10 patients — (60+ minute consultation)	\$22.95 / patient	\$19.55 / patient
<i>Occupational Therapists</i>			
80125	FPS Service — out of rooms — (20-50 minute consultation)	\$79.20	\$67.35
80130	FPS Service — in rooms — (20-50 minute consultation)	\$56.25	\$47.85
80135	FPS Service — in rooms — (50+ minute consultation)	\$79.40	\$67.50
80140	FPS Service — out of rooms — (50+ minute consultation)	\$102.35	\$87.00
80145	FPS Service Group Session — 6 to 10 patients — (60+ minute consultation)	\$20.20 / patient	\$17.20 / patient
<i>Social Workers</i>			
80150	FPS Service — in rooms — (20-50 minute consultation)	\$56.25	\$47.85
80155	FPS Service — out of rooms — (20-50 minute consultation)	\$79.20	\$67.35
80160	FPS Service — in rooms — (50+ minute consultation)	\$79.40	\$67.50
80165	FPS Service — out of rooms — (50+ minute consultation)	\$102.35	\$87.00
80170	FPS Service Group Session — 6 to 10 patients — (60+ minute consultation)	\$20.20 / patient	\$17.20 / patient

* These items existed prior to 1 November 2006, but the fees and rebates attached to them were increased as part of the Better Access initiative.

Source: Department of Health and Ageing. 2008. Utilisation Tables of Mental health Medicare Items (Attachment A). [accessed online March 2009 at www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/content/mental-ba-fig]

Appendix B: Number of Better Access services provided by occupation category and MBS item number, 2006 to 2008

Occupation Category	MBS Item No.	Year								
		2006			2007			2008		
		Freq.	% of Sub-total	% of Total	Freq.	% of Sub-total	% of Total	Freq.	% of Sub-total	% of Total
General Medical Practitioner										
	2710	67,374	65.8		470,706	46.5		555,811	40.4	
	2712	740	0.7		113,187	11.2		190,298	13.8	
	2713	34,279	33.5		428,588	42.3		628,163	45.7	
	Sub-total	102,393	100	57	1,012,481	100	38	1,374,272	100	36
Psychiatrist										
	291	3,127	22.7		8,837	9.3		11,250	11.1	
	293	252	1.8		896	0.9		1,489	1.5	
	296	9,281	67.4		75,609	79.9		78,008	77	
	297	952	6.9		8,347	8.8		9,611	9.5	
	299	152	1.1		917	1		948	0.9	
	Sub-total	13,764	100	8	94,606	100	4	101,306	100	3
Clinical Psychologist										
	80000	299	2.0		10,342	2.0		13,907	1.8	
	80005	28	0.2		793	0.2		582	0.1	
	80010	14,310	96.9		488,952	96.4		755,583	96.6	
	80015	100	0.7		3,531	0.7		6,488	0.8	
	80020	28	0.2		3,655	0.7		5,832	0.7	
	Sub-total	14765	100.0	8	507,273	100	19	782,392	100	21
General Psychologist										
	80100	2,256	4.7		26,425	2.6		27,512	2.0	
	80105	252	0.5		2,715	0.3		3,763	0.3	
	80110	44,530	93.3		963,270	94.8		1,320,306	94.6	
	80115	615	1.3		19,194	1.9		35,928	2.6	
	80120	67	0.1		3,983	0.4		7,453	0.5	
	Sub-total	47,720	100	26	1,015,587	100	38	1,394,962	100	37
Occupational Therapist										
	80125	12	10.1		552	5.3		1,186	5.6	
	80130	0	0.0		30	0.3		204	1.0	
	80135	88	73.9		8,806	84.3		16,778	79.5	
	80140	13	10.9		918	8.8		2,296	10.9	
	80145	6	5.0		137	1.3		631	3.0	
	Sub-total	119	100	0	10,443	100	0	21,095	100	1
Social Worker										
	80150	47	3.2		980	1.9		2,345	2.3	
	80155	3	0.2		143	0.3		1,236	1.2	
	80160	1,351	91.5		49,514	93.6		93,201	90.8	
	80165	21	1.4		2,092	4		5,525	5.4	
	80170	54	3.7		163	0.3		291	0.3	
	Sub-total	1,476	100	1	52,892	100	2	102,598	100	3
Total		180,237		100	2,693,282		100	3,776,625		100

Source: Medicare Australia. 2006-08 Medicare Provider Data and Medicare Benefit Schedule (MBS) data

Appendix C: Qualitative Interview Schedule

1. What is the impact of the Better Access Initiative on the current workforce?

- a. Has the Better Access initiative affected how many of your profession have mental health skills? [increase / decrease/ same]
- b. What impact has the Better Access initiative had on their skill level in mental health
- c. Impact of Better Access initiative on how many health professionals with mental health skills work in regional and rural areas
- d. Is there spare capacity
 - i. Within the existing workforce with mental health skills
 - ii. Within the profession to increase the number with mental health skills
- e. #Are you seeing a move of allied health practitioners from the public to private sector as the result of the Better Access initiative
 - i. Does this increase access to private allied mental health services
 - ii. Does this decrease access to public allied mental health services
 - iii. Does this reduce clinical training opportunities in allied mental health
 - iv. Does this increase applications to study relevant allied health disciplines now there is a clearer pathway to private practice
- f. Is there evidence that the Better Access initiative has resulted in the re-entry of disengaged medical/allied health practitioners

2. What is the impact of the Better Access initiative on the delivery and take-up of certified training

- a. From a training perspective, what will affect whether there will be growth in the numbers with capacity to work within the Better Access initiative?
- b. #Is training for allied health private practice different from training for public practice?
- c. Impact of the Better Access initiative on the capacity for mental health training for
 - i. Post-graduates (clinical placements)
 - ii. Undergraduates (placements)
 - iii. Continuing professional development (clinical placements?)
- d. Impact of the Better Access initiative on who is taking up the training
 - i. Is there likely to be an increase or decrease in numbers of [occupation] with mental health training? Why?
- e. Impact of the Better Access initiative on where training is done
 - i. Clinical sites
 - ii. Non-clinical sites
- f. Impact of the Better Access initiative on who is providing the training
- g. To what extent has the Better Access initiative affected the number of trainers
 1. general professional training

- 2. mental health training
- h. Impact of the Better Access initiative on the requirements for being a trainer

Impact of the Better Access initiative on Regional Training Programs, their capacity to deliver training and their uptake by registrars

3. Impact of the Better Access initiative on training the rural workforce

- a. Is mental health training being delivered outside metro areas?
 - i. Specific Better Access initiative training
- b. *What has been the impact of the Better Access initiative on the capacity of RTPs to deliver mental health training
 - i. Do registrars take this up
 - ii. Does capacity meet demand
 - iii. Do they work with allied health providers

4. Impact of the Better Access initiative on the capacity of training systems to provide clinical experience to undergraduate and post-graduate doctors and allied health professionals

- a. What is the impact of the Better Access initiative on the capacity of your professions training systems to provide clinical experience to:
 - i. Undergraduates
 - ii. Post-graduates
 - iii. CPD
 - iv. Allied health

5. * What is the impact of the Better Access initiative on the availability of training places for increasing numbers of medical graduates

6. How will an increase in the number of medical students interact with the training of psychology, occupational therapy and social work students

- a. What is the impact of the Better Access initiative on this interaction
- b. What is the hierarchy of clinical access to mental health patients? eg where midwives are being trained, medical students cannot get access to women during delivery.
- c. *Is there likely to be an increase or decrease in GPs offering mental health interventions (Item 2713) as a result of the Better Access initiative

- 7. What impact has the Better Access initiative had on interactions between GPs and psychologists (for GP and psychologist orgs only)**
- a. How has the Better Access initiative had an impact on the interaction between GPs and psychologists?
 - i. How is the referral pathway between GPs and psychologists working?
 - ii. What areas might still be improved
 - b. Are care plans being utilized effectively?
 - i. What areas might still be improved
 - c. *What, if any, issues, do GPs have in utilising care plans (e.g. paperwork)
 - i. How is [the issue] dealt with by GPs
- 8. Is there anything you would like to add about how the Better Access initiative might impact on the future of the [occupation] workforce?**

= allied health profession organizations

* = medical profession organizations

Appendix D: Questions for KPMG questionnaire

1. Has the BAI affected access to clinical training in your discipline for:

Undergraduates	yes	no
Postgraduates	yes	no

2. If yes, has it : Improved access

Undergraduate	yes	no
Post-graduates	yes	no

Made access more difficult yes no

Undergraduate	yes	no
Post-graduates	yes	no