MBS Optimisation Program

Why is it important for practices to understand MBS items and billings?

- Practices must bill correctly under the MBS to comply with Medicare legislation.
- Misuse (accidental or intentional) can lead to audits, repayment of funds, penalties or sanctions.
  - Understanding item descriptors, rules, and claiming criteria reduces this risk.
- MBS billing can create financial sustainability as a major revenue stream for many practices.
  - Understanding which items can be billed, eligibility requirements and co-claiming restrictions helps ensure the practice is paid appropriately for services provided.
- Knowledge of MBS promotes ethical billing, transparency with patients regarding fees and rebates, and builds trust between patients, practitioners, and Medicare.
- MBS billing can optimise patient care. Good MBS knowledge allows practitioners to use appropriate item numbers to:
  - Reflect the care delivered,
  - Identify services patients may be entitled to (e.g., care plans, health assessments),
  - Structure appointments or care pathways efficiently.
- Understanding MBS rules allows for efficient practice management by:
  - Helping practice managers and administrative staff streamline workflows,
  - Reduce claim rejections,
  - Train new clinicians or reception staff,
  - Forecast revenue.

NACCHO
National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation

mbs Optimisation

MBS Optimisation

What does MBS stand for?

Medicare Benefits Schedule

What is the MBS?

A list of all item numbers and payment schedules that can be billed for medical services that:

- Can be claimed by patients, or
- If bulk billed, the fee paid to the provider

What does Bulk Bill mean?

When a service is billed by the practitioner to Medicare at no out-of-pocket expense to the patient.

What training is available to learn more about the MBS?

NACCHO has an online learning system that provides more information about MBS billings in the ACCHO setting. Including:

- National KPIs
- Practice Incentive Payments
- ACCHO Orientation
- Medicare Claiming
- BBPIP/ Better Access Hub

Who can bill for Medicare services?

Health practitioners if they are registered with the relevant national board, have a Medicare provider number, and provide services in private practice.

- Includes doctors, allied health professionals, and other recognised health practitioners who meet eligibility requirements and qualifications for their profession.

Who can I go to for help if I have questions regarding MBS billings?

NACCHO's MBS program team can assist you and direct you to resources where you can find more information.

- Email: MBS@naccho.org.au

Where can I find more information about the MBS?

MBS Online: contains the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS), a listing of Medicare services subsidised by the Australian Government.

Let's Master MBS Together

NAATSIHWP ENDORSED

ACRRM CPD ACCREDITED ACTIVITY 2023-2025

RACGP CPD Approved Activity