

Autism Advisory and Support Service

[www.aass.org.au](http://www.aass.org.au)

24 Hour Autism Hotline 1300 222 777



### **Healthy Kids Check**

This initiative has been introduced for all 4 year old children who are permanent residents in Australia. The purpose of this basic health check is to promote early detection of lifestyle risk factors, delayed development and illness, and introduce guidance for healthy lifestyles before kids start school.

The **Healthy Kids Check** can be undertaken by a medical practitioner, including a GP but not a specialist. The check can also be undertaken on behalf of a GP by a registered practice nurse. The check up is done in conjunction with (i.e. is receiving or has received) kids' 4 year old immunization. In circumstances where a parent/guardian chooses not to immunize their child, the Healthy Kids Check cannot be provided as a service for which Medicare rebate may be claimed.

For further information on Medicare claiming and payments queries, call the Medicare Australia enquiry line on **131 150**. MBS Item numbers: **709** and **711**.

### **Better Mental Health Care Plan**

The **Mental Health Care Plan** developed by the GP, provides a framework for early intervention, assessment and management of patients with mental disorders, and provides referral pathways to clinical psychologists.

Eligible patients on the are plan can claim up to 12 or even up to 18 (complex cases) Medicare rebates per calendar year for individual services provided by clinical psychologists, appropriately trained GPs and/or other allied mental health professionals (OT's and social workers).

For more information and eligibility of individual case discuss with your GP or contact Medicare on **132 011**. MBS Item Number: **2710** and **2712**.

### **Enhanced Primary Care (EPC) Plan**

All our clients are eligible to have an **EPC plan** developed by their GP. This plan refers clients to a range of allied health professionals (including OT's, physiotherapists, audiologists, dieticians, osteopaths and Aboriginal health workers) with Medicare rebate accessible for a maximum of 5 services per patient each calendar but out of the 5 it can be mixed between therapists.

For further information discuss with **GP** or call Medicare on **132 150**. MBS Item number: **10956**.

### **Helping Children With Autism Package**

Affordable access to accurate and early diagnosis and intervention treatment is important for children with autism. The government recognizes this need and is funding new Medicare items which will be available through the **Helping Children with Autism Package** for those aged under 13 for **diagnoses AND treatment planning** and under 15 years for **treatment only**.

The first step is to get your GP and discuss this package with them and receive a necessary referral to eligible Medicare registered Paediatricians and/or Psychiatrists to diagnose and develop a treatment plan for children. Medicare then provides one off (does not reset after each calendar year) rebates for up to 4 allied health diagnostic services and for up to 20 allied health treatment services in total with any of these allied health professionals (psychologists, speech pathologists, OT's) upon referral from the registered paediatrician or psychiatrist. However, the child must be present at the service at all times even if the appointment is to fill in paperwork AND the service lasts at least 50 minutes.

Parents and cars are advised to seek further clarification by talking to your GP. Item numbers: **82000, 82005, 82010**.

### **Dental Services Under Medicare**

Under the Medicare chronic disease dental statement scheme, Medicare benefits are available for most services provided by a dentist or dental specialist in private surgeries.

To be eligible, patients must have:

- A chronic medical condition (one that has been or is likely to persist for at least 6 months e.g. Autism)
- Complex care needs (receiving ongoing care from a multidisciplinary team, which includes a GP and at least two other health care providers)
- AND oral health must be impacting on, or likely to impact on, general health.

If eligible, you will be able to claim up to **\$4.250** in Medicare Benefits for certain dental services over two consecutive calendar years. To receive the benefit, you will first need to be referred by your GP to a dentist. Once you have been referred by your GP, you should call Medicare Australia on **132 011** to check that the necessary GP care planning items have been claimed and paid for before commencing dental treatment.

MBS Item Numbers: **85011-87777**.