

FAQs: MBS Changes for Audiology Items Commencing 1 March 2023

Last update: 27 March 2023

Audiology Item Fees

- **Is the item fee listed in AudA's information sheet the full item fee or the rebate amount?**

The item fees listed in AudA's information sheet is the full schedule fee for the item. The rebate will be at 85 per cent of the item fee. [MBS Online](#) will be updated with the new Audiology item numbers, including fees and benefits, from 1 March 2023.

- **What is the difference between Audiology items with prefix '823XX' and '113XX'?**

In general, Audiology items beginning with '113XX' are items with Medicare benefits payable to medical practitioners, even if the services are performed by an audiologist on behalf of the medical practitioner.

- **Does an Audiology service have a greater Medicare rebate if the Audiologist is performing the service on behalf of a medical practitioner, or is the rebate the same as if the Audiologist has received a GP written request?**

An audiology service has a greater Medicare rebate if it is claimed under a medical practitioner provider number (i.e., services under Items 113XX). An audiologist performing a service under 113XX will be performing the service by or on behalf of a medical practitioner, and the Medicare benefits will be payable to the medical practitioner. An audiologist performing the same or similar service under the complementary diagnostic audiology item number 823XX will have received a written request from a medical practitioner, and the Medicare benefits will be payable to the audiologist.

Written requests by GPs to Audiologists

- **Does the GP written request to an Audiologist only allow for one use per written request (i.e., one audiological assessment)?**

A request is for a single audiological assessment (noting that an audiological assessment can be made up of more than one diagnostic audiology services). If a follow up assessment or any other re-evaluation of the patient is needed, another request is required.

- **Is there a date limitation on the period of validity for a GP written request to an Audiologist?**

As the requests for audiology diagnostic services are for a specific once off assessment, there is no specific time period for their validity. However, MBS items can only be claimed for clinically relevant services. In a situation where a patient presented with a request from a specialist or GP which was dated some time ago, the Department would expect that the audiologist would use their clinical judgement to determine whether the service was still required.

MBS Item 82300 – Brain stem evoked response audiometry

- **Can Item 82300 be used for the following tests: Vestibular Evoked Myogenic Potential (VEMP) and Electrocochleography (ECOG)?**

Item 82300 does not provide for vestibular evoked myogenic potential (VEMP) testing or electrocochleography (ECOG).

VEMP testing is provided for by item numbers 11340, 11341 and 11343 which were introduced on 1 March 2023. Explanatory note DN.1.36 provides more details on the tests that can be performed under these items. ECOG is provided for by items 11303 and 11304. Items 11303, 11340, 11341, 11343 can be performed by audiologists on behalf of a claiming medical practitioner. Item 11304 must be personally performed by the claiming medical practitioner.

Please note where a service is provided in an on behalf of manner, the service must be claimed by the medical practitioner responsible for the service. Items 11303, 11340, 11341, and 11343 cannot be claimed by audiologists.

- **Can Item 82300 be claimed more than once per session?**

Item 82300 can only be claimed once per session after receiving a written request from a medical practitioner but more than one MBS item can be claimed in that session (e.g., MBS items 82324 and 82315 can be claimed together for example from the one session with your client).

MBS Item 82301 – Programming an auditory implant or the sound processor of an auditory implant

- **If a patient has binaural implants, can Item 82301 be claimed twice?**

Yes, this is a unilateral item, and therefore can be claimed once for the left ear and once for the right ear.

- **Is there a limitation to how often Item 82301 can be claimed?**

A total of four services of either this item or its telehealth equivalents can be claimed on a single day (i.e., a maximum of four services total for items 82301, 82302 and 82304). There are no other restrictions on how frequently the item can be claimed.

MBS item 82306 – Non-determinate audiometry

- **What are examples of services that can be performed under item 82306?**

Non-determinate Audiometry (82306) refers to audiometry covering the services, one or more, referred to in Items 82309-82318 when not performed under the conditions set out in [M15.3. Refer to MBS Online](#). For example, this might include an air conduction audiogram and speech discrimination audiogram that is not performed in the conditions set out in M15.3.

MBS Item 82318 – Air and bone conduction and speech discrimination audiogram with other cochlear tests

- **What is meant by other cochlear tests?**

The term “other cochlear tests” is not further defined in the MBS or the associated legislation. The Department of Health relies on practitioners using their best clinical judgement when interpreting item descriptors and associated notes. However, it is expected that when a practitioner makes and documents a decision regarding the clinical care of a patient, this information would generally be accepted in the medical profession as being clinically necessary for the appropriate treatment for that patient.

MBS Item 82324 – Impedance audiogram involving tympanometry and measurement of static compliance and acoustic reflex

- **Can Item 82324 be claimed per ear performed?**

It is the intent of audiogram items that they be provided in keeping with clinical standards and consistent with the details of the request provided by the requesting practitioner. This means that the services cannot be separated into left and right ear testing.

Please remember under MBS claiming arrangements, it is the claiming practitioner’s responsibility to consider the clinical circumstances of any services rendered and to determine the appropriate MBS item(s) to claim, if any. They should also exercise care to ensure that their conduct in relation to rendering and requesting services cannot be

characterised as inappropriate practice (i.e., practice that a practitioner’s peers could reasonably conclude was unacceptable to the general body of their profession).

MBS Item 11302 – Programming an auditory implant or sound processor of an auditory implant performed by or on behalf of a medical practitioner

- **Are Audiologists able to claim both the items 11302 and 11027 for cochlear implant mapping?**

Where clinically appropriate and relevant, and provided all requirements of the items are met, item 11302 may be claimed in conjunction with item 11027.

Further information

- **Where can I find further information on the changes to the Audiology items?**

The Department of Health has published a factsheet for Audiology MBS items which outlines the amendments and updates to Audiology items on the Schedule that came into effect on 1 March 2023. [View the factsheet.](#)

- **Who can I contact for further information?**

If you have any questions regarding the upcoming changes to the MBS Audiology Items, or the Medicare Program in general, please get in touch with Audiology Australia’s policy team at policy@audiology.asn.au.

For MBS interpretation advice, please contact the MBS team at the Department of Health at askmbs@health.gov.au.