

FAQs: MBS Changes for Audiology Items Commencing 1 March 2023

Last update: 28 February 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 referral?**

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 referral to an Audiologist only allow for one use per referral (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 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 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.