

Medicare Benefits Schedule Changes for Audiology Items Commencing 1 March 2023

Last update: 28 February 2023

Background

The Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) Review commenced from 2015 to 2020 with the aim of improving the MBS by aligning MBS items with contemporary clinical evidence and practice to improve health outcomes. On 14 December 2020, as part of the MBS Review, the MBS Review Taskforce Clinical Committee made six recommendations for Audiology Items on the MBS, which were presented to the Australian Government for endorsement.

The Australian Government endorsed all recommendations provided by the MBS Review Taskforce Clinical Committee. The MBS Review Taskforce recommendations are as follows:

1. Reduce referral restrictions for audiology item numbers performed by an Audiologist.
2. Create new items which reflect the different clinical uses of brain stem evoked response audiometry and implant processor programming and broaden the application to include all implantable hearing devices.
3. Consolidate items for impedance audiograms.
4. Include the assessment of outer hair cell function in the cochlear in the application of oto-acoustic emission audiometry.
5. Restructure vestibular assessment items to reflect current practice and to future proof for evolving clinical practice.
6. Improve access to services by availing telehealth.

You can view the full report provided by the MBS Review Taskforce Clinical Committee on the recommendations for Audiology Items in the [Final Report on the Review of Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery MBS Items \(pages 17-39\)](#)

Upcoming changes on 1 March 2023

From 1 March 2023, changes to the following Audiology Items will come into effect as part of the Australian Government's implementation of the MBS Review Taskforce recommendations. **Importantly, this includes a change in the written request requirements for the following Audiology Items: 82300, 82306, 82309, 82312, 82315, 82318, 82324 and**

82332. From 1 March 2023 and onwards, the written request requirements will be broadened to include any medical practitioner as eligible to provide a written request to an audiologist.

Refer to the table below to review the full list of changes for Audiology Items on the MBS that will come into effect on 1 March 2023.

Diagnostic Audiology Item	Descriptor	Changes in effect 1 March 2023
82300	Brain stem evoked response audiometry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Referral request requirements broadened to medical practitioner. The service is not for the purposes of programming an auditory implant or the sound processor of an auditory implant (refer 82301). Full Schedule Fee: \$162.75
82301	Programming an auditory implant or the sound processor of an auditory implant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New item introduced for services related to programming an auditory implant or sound processor of an auditory implant. Not claimable if a service to which item 11302 or items 11342 or 11345 have been performed on the same day. Item 82301 will also only apply to one of the first four services to which this item or item 82302 or 82304 applies on the same day. No referral request required. Full Schedule Fee: \$162.75
82306	Non-determinate audiometry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Referral request requirements broadened to medical practitioner. Full Schedule Fee: \$18.50
82309	Air conduction audiogram	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Referral request requirements broadened to medical practitioner. Full Schedule Fee: \$22.25
82312	Air and bone conduction audiogram or air conduction and speech discrimination audiogram	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Referral request requirements broadened to medical practitioner. Full Schedule Fee: \$31.45
82315	Air and bone conduction and speech discrimination audiogram	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Referral request requirements broadened to medical practitioner. Full Schedule Fee: \$41.60

82318	Air and bone conduction and speech discrimination audiogram with other cochlear tests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Referral request requirements broadened to medical practitioner. Full Schedule Fee: \$51.40
82324	Impedance audiogram	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Referral request requirements broadened to medical practitioner. Item amended to incorporate services provided under 82327. Co-claiming restrictions removed for Item 82324 with a service to which Item 82309, 82312, 82315 or 82318 applies. Schedule fee adjusted to reflect weighted average of two services (82324 and 82327) to achieve cost neutrality. Full Schedule Fee: \$16.90
82327	Impedance audiogram	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Item removed from Schedule. It is consolidated into a single service under Item 82324 (refer 82324).
82332	Oto-acoustic emission audiometry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Referral request requirements broadened to medical practitioner. Inclusion of assessment of outer hair cell function in the cochlear as part of the service provided under Item. Availability of services under Item broadened to include all patients at risk of permanent hearing loss for a variety of specified reasons. Full Schedule Fee: \$49.55
82302	Programming of an auditory implant or the sound processor of an auditory implant by telehealth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No referral required. Co-claiming restriction updated to refer to new item 11302 and reference to item 11300 under which the service would previously have been claimed has been removed. Full Schedule Fee: \$162.75
82304	Programming of an auditory implant or the sound processor of an auditory implant by phone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No referral required. Co-claiming restriction updated to refer to new item 11302 and reference to item 11300 under which the service would previously have been claimed has been removed. Full Schedule Fee: \$162.75

The amendments to the Audiology Items are outlined in the [Health Insurance Legislation Amendment \(2023 Measures No. 1\) Determination 2022 \(pages 4-8\)](#) and the [Explanatory Statement \(pages 4-6\)](#).

Members are encouraged to view the full Audiology Item descriptors, including schedule fee and explanatory notes, once the updates become available on [MBS Online](#).

Otolaryngology Items performed by or on behalf of a medical practitioner

The following items may be performed by an audiologist on behalf of a medical practitioner or a specialist or consultant physician.

Otolaryngology Item	Descriptor	Changes in effect 1 March 2023
11300	Brain stem evoked response audiometry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The service is not for the purposes of programming an auditory implant or the sound processor of an auditory implant (refer 11302). Claimable if a service to which item 82300 applies has not been performed on the patient on the same day. Full Schedule Fee: \$203.50
11302	Programming an auditory implant or sound processor of an auditory implant performed by or on behalf of a medical practitioner.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New item introduced for services related to programming an auditory implant or sound processor of an auditory implant. Claimable if a service to which item 82301, 82302 or 82304 applies has not been performed on the patient on the same day. Applicable up to a total of 4 services to which this item, item 11342 or item 11345 applies on the same day. Full Schedule Fee \$203.50
11342	Programming by telehealth of an auditory implant or sound processor of an auditory implant performed by or on behalf of a medical practitioner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-claiming restriction updated to refer to new item 82301 and reference to item 82300 under which the service would previously have been claimed has been removed. Full Schedule Fee: \$162.75

11345	Programming by phone of an auditory implant or sound processor of an auditory implant performed by or on behalf of a medical practitioner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-claiming restriction updated to refer to new item 82301 and reference to item 82300 under which the service would previously have been claimed has been removed. • Full Schedule Fee: \$162.75
11340	Investigation of vestibular function to assist in diagnosis, treatment or management of vestibular or related disorder performed by or on behalf of a medical practitioner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New item introduced to replace items 11333, 11336 and 11339. • This item allows up to two clinically recognised tests to be utilised. • Full Schedule Fee: \$196.80
11341	Investigation of vestibular function to assist in the diagnosis, treatment or management of vestibular or related disorder performed by or on behalf of a medical practitioner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New item introduced to replace items 11333, 11336 and 11339. • This item allows 3 or 4 clinically recognised tests to be utilised. • Full Schedule Fee: \$394.50
11343	Investigation of vestibular function to assist in the diagnosis, treatment or management of vestibular or related disorder performed by or on behalf of a medical practitioner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New item introduced to replace items 11333, 11336 and 11339. • This item allows 5 or more clinically recognised tests to be utilised. • Full Schedule Fee: \$590.25
11324	Impedance audiogram involving tympanometry and measurement of static compliance and acoustic reflex performed by or on behalf of a medical practitioner.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Items 11324, 11327 and 11330 have been consolidated into a single service under Item 11324. • Claimable if a service to which item 82324 applies has not been performed on the patient on the same day. • Full Schedule Fee: \$21.00
11332	Oto-acoustic emission audiometry for detection of outer hair cell functioning in cochlear performed by or on behalf of a specialist or consultant physician, when middle ear pathology has been excluded.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Claimable if the service is performed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ on an infant or child at risk of permanent hearing impairment; or ○ on an individual at risk of oto-toxicity due to medications or medical intervention; or ○ on an individual at risk of noise induced hearing loss; or ○ to assist in the diagnosis of auditory neuropathy; and

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Claimable if a service to which item 82332 applies has not been performed on the patient on the same day. • Full Schedule Fee: \$61.95
11306	Non-determinate audiometry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Claimable if a service to which item 82306 applies has not been performed on the patient on the same day. • Full Schedule Fee: \$23.15
11309	Audiogram , air conduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Claimable if a service to which item 82309 applies has not been performed on the patient on the same day. • Full Schedule Fee: \$27.80
11312	Audiogram, air and bone conduction or air conduction and speech discrimination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Claimable if a service to which item 82312 applies has not been performed on the patient on the same day. • Full Schedule Fee: \$39.25
11315	Audiogram, air and bone conduction and speech	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Claimable if a service to which item 82315 applies has not been performed on the patient on the same day. • Full Schedule Fee: \$52.00
11318	Audiogram, air and bone conduction and speech, with other cochlear tests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Claimable if a service to which item 82318 applies has not been performed on the patient on the same day. • Full Schedule Fee: \$64.20

The amendments to Items 11342 and 11345 are outlined in the [Explanatory Statement \(pages 4-6\)](#). The amendments and further details relating to Items 11300, 11302, 11340, 11341, 11343, 11324, 11332, 11306, 11309, 11312, 11315 and 11318 are available on [pages 2 to 4 of the Health Insurance Legislation Amendment \(2022 Measures No. 4\) Regulations 2022](#).

Members are encouraged to view the full Otolaryngology Item descriptors, including schedule fee and explanatory notes, once the updates become available on [MBS Online](#).

Allied Health Items performed by an audiologist

The following items may be performed by an audiologist for the assessment and treatment of Complex Neurodevelopmental Disorders and eligible disability services.

Allied Health Item	Descriptor	Changes in effect 1 March 2023
82030	Audiology, Optometry, Orthoptic or Physiotherapy health service to assist in the diagnosis or contribute to a child's pervasive developmental disorder or disability treatment plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The assessment and treatment Item 82030 will be amended to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Extend eligibility of patients from under 13 years for assessment and under 15 years for treatment, to under 25 years for both. ○ Expand the list of eligible disabilities to include Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, Lesch-Nyhan syndrome, and 22q deletion syndrome. ○ Update the terminology used from 'pervasive developmental disorder' to 'Complex Neurodevelopmental Disorder (such as Autism Spectrum Disorder). ○ Increase the total number of assessment services from four to eight per lifetime (review and agreement by the referring eligible medical practitioner is required before the same eligible Allied Health practitioner can provide any more than four assessment services to the patient). ○ Allow for Allied Health interdisciplinary referrals (in consultation and agreement with the original referring eligible medical practitioner). • Full Schedule Fee: \$92.95
82035	Audiology, Optometry, Orthoptic or Physiotherapy health service for treatment of a child's pervasive developmental disorder or eligible disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The assessment and treatment Item 82035 will be amended to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Extend eligibility of patients from under 13 years for assessment and under 15 years for treatment, to under 25 years for both. ○ Expand the list of eligible disabilities to include Fetal Alcohol Spectrum

		<p>Disorder, Lesch-Nyhan syndrome, and 22q deletion syndrome.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Update the terminology used from ‘pervasive developmental disorder’ to ‘Complex Neurodevelopmental Disorder (such as Autism Spectrum Disorder). ● Full Schedule Fee \$92.95
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The amendments to the Allied Health Items are outlined in the [Health Insurance Legislation Amendment \(2023 Measures No. 1\) Determination 2022 on pages 15-16](#) and in the [Explanatory Statement](#).

Members are encouraged to view the full Allied Health Item descriptors, including schedule fee and explanatory notes, once the updates become available on [MBS Online](#).

MBS Factsheets

- [Otolaryngology, head and neck surgery changes - Audiology](#)
- [Complex neurodevelopmental disorder and eligible disability changes to MBS items](#)

Useful tools and resources

- [MBS Online](#) - ‘Search the MBS’ function allows you to input any MBS item number and review the description of the item, including key claiming requirements, schedule fee and explanatory notes.
- Services Australia publishes helpful information on the Medicare Program. These include the following:
 - [Diagnostic audiology items](#)
 - [Referring and requesting Medicare services](#)
 - [How to apply for a Medicare provider number](#)
- Services Australia also provides [Health Professional Education Resources](#) for health professionals. These include learning modules on the Medicare Program on topics such as referrals and requests, and Medicare billing and claiming.

Get in touch

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.