



***Health Insurance (Section 3C General Medical Services – Specialist, Consultant Physician and Consultant Psychiatrist COVID-19 Telehealth Services) Amendment Determination No.1 2020***

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I, DAVID WEISS delegate of the Minister for Health, make the following Determination.

Dated 13 March 2020

David Weiss  
First Assistant Secretary  
Medical Benefits Division  
Health Financing Group  
Department of Health

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## Contents

1 Name.....	1
2 Commencement .....	1
3 Authority.....	1
4 Schedules .....	1
Schedule 1— Amendments to <i>Health Insurance (Section 3C General Medical Services – Specialist, Consultant Physician and Consultant Psychiatrist COVID-19 Telehealth Services) Determination 2020</i> .....	2
Division 1.4 Services and fees – specialist attendances via phone services	2
Division 1.5 – Services and fees – consultant physician (other than psychiatry) attendances via phone services	3
Division 1.6 – Services and fees – Consultant psychiatrist attendances via phone services	5



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## 1 Name

This instrument is the *Health Insurance (Section 3C General Medical Services – Specialist, Consultant Physician and Consultant Psychiatrist COVID-19 Telehealth Services) Amendment Determination No.1 2020*.

## 2 Commencement

- (1) Each provision of this instrument specified in column 1 of the table commences, or is taken to have commenced, in accordance with column 2 of the table. Any other statement in column 2 has effect according to its terms.

Commencement information		
Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Provisions	Commencement	Date/Details
1. The whole of this instrument	Immediately after the commencement of the <i>Health Insurance (Section 3C General Medical Services – Specialist, Consultant Physician and Consultant Psychiatrist COVID-19) Telehealth Services) Determination 2020</i>	

Note: This table relates only to the provisions of this instrument as originally made. It will not be amended to deal with any later amendments of this instrument.

- (2) Any information in column 3 of the table is not part of this instrument. Information may be inserted in this column, or information in it may be edited, in any published version of this instrument.

## 3 Authority

This instrument is made under subsection 3C(1) of the *Health Insurance Act 1973*.

## 4 Schedules

Each instrument that is specified in a Schedule to this instrument is amended or repealed as set out in the applicable items in the Schedule concerned, and any other item in a Schedule to this instrument has effect according to its terms.

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**Schedule 1— Amendments to Health Insurance (Section 3C General Medical Services – Specialist, Consultant Physician and Consultant Psychiatrist COVID-19 Telehealth Services) Determination 2020**

**1. Within the definition of ‘Patient at risk of COVID-19 virus’ of section 5 Definitions**

Insert after (c)(v):

or

- (d) the person meets the current national triage protocol criteria for suspected COVID-19 infection

**2. After ‘Patient at risk of COVID-19 virus’ of section 5 Definition**

Insert:

*phone attendance* means a professional attendance by telephone where the health practitioner:

- (a) has the capacity to provide the full service through this means safely and in accordance with professional standards; and  
(b) is satisfied that it is clinically appropriate to provide the service to the patient; and  
(c) maintains an audio link with the patient.

**3. After Division 1.3 of Schedule 1**

Insert:

**Division 1.4 Services and fees – specialist attendances via phone services**

**1.4.1 Application of COVID-19 medical practitioner phone services**

Insert:

- (1) For items in Subgroups 4, and 7 the rendering practitioner must not perform a service in subgroup 7 if the practitioner and the patient have the capacity to undertake an attendance by telehealth.

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**Group A40 – COVID-19 – medical practitioner phone services**

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**Subgroup 7 – COVID-19 – specialist attendances phone services**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Fee (\$)</b>
91832	Phone attendance for a person by a specialist in the practice of the specialist’s specialty if: (a) the attendance is where: (i) the person is a patient at risk of COVID-19 virus; or (ii) the specialist is a health professional at risk	88.25

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	of COVID-19 virus; and	
	(b) the attendance follows referral of the patient to the specialist; and	
	(c) the attendance was of more than 5 minutes in duration; and	
	(d) the patient is not an admitted patient; and	
	(e) the service is bulk-billed.	
	Where the attendance was other than a second or subsequent attendance as part of a single course of treatment.	
91833	Phone attendance for a person by a specialist in the practice of the specialist's specialty if:	44.35
	(a) the attendance is where:	
	(i) the person is a patient at risk of COVID-19 virus; or	
	(ii) the specialist is a health professional at risk of COVID-19 virus; and	
	(b) the attendance follows referral of the patient to the specialist; and	
	(c) the attendance was of more than 5 minutes in duration; and	
	(d) the patient is not an admitted patient; and	
	(e) the service is bulk-billed.	
	Where the attendance is after the first attendance as part of a single course of treatment.	

**Division 1.5 – Services and fees – consultant physician (other than psychiatry) attendances via phone services**

**1.5.1 Application of COVID-19 medical practitioner phone services**

Insert:

- (1) For items in Subgroups 5, and 8 the rendering practitioner must not perform a service in subgroup 8 if the practitioner and the patient have the capacity to undertake an attendance by telehealth.

<b>Group A40 – COVID-19 – medical practitioner phone services</b>		
<b>Subgroup 8 – COVID-19 – consultant physician phone services</b>		
<b>Item</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Fee (\$)</b>
91834	Phone attendance for a person by a consultant physician in the practice of the consultant physician's specialty (other than psychiatry) if: (a) the attendance is where:	155.60

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) the person is a patient at risk of COVID-19 virus; or</li> <li>(ii) the consultant physician is a health professional at risk of COVID-19 virus; and</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(b) the attendance follows referral of the patient to the specialist; and</li> <li>(c) the attendance was of more than 5 minutes in duration; and</li> <li>(d) the patient is not an admitted patient; and</li> <li>(e) the service is bulk-billed.</li> </ul>	
	Where the attendance was other than a second or subsequent attendance as part of a single course of treatment.	
91835	<p>Phone attendance for a person by a consultant physician in the practice of the consultant physician's specialty (other than psychiatry) if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the attendance is where: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) the person is a patient at risk of COVID-19 virus; or</li> <li>(ii) the consultant physician is a health professional at risk of COVID-19 virus; and</li> </ul> </li> <li>(b) the attendance follows referral of the patient to the specialist; and</li> <li>(c) the attendance was of more than 5 minutes in duration; and</li> <li>(d) the patient is not an admitted patient; and</li> <li>(e) the service is bulk-billed.</li> </ul>	77.90
	Where the attendance is not a minor attendance after the first as part of a single course of treatment.	
91836	<p>Phone attendance for a person by a consultant physician in the practice of the consultant physician's specialty (other than psychiatry) if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the attendance is where: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) the person is a patient at risk of COVID-19 virus; or</li> <li>(ii) the specialist is a health professional at risk of COVID-19 virus; and</li> </ul> </li> <li>(b) the attendance follows referral of the patient to the specialist; and</li> <li>(c) the attendance was of more than 5 minutes in duration; and</li> </ul>	44.35



- (d) the patient is not an admitted patient; and
- (e) the service is bulk-billed.

Where the attendance is a minor attendance after the first as part of a single course of treatment.

## **Division 1.6 – Services and fees – Consultant psychiatrist attendances via phone services**

### **1.6.1 Application of COVID-19 medical practitioner phone services**

Insert:

- (1) For items in Subgroups 6, and 9 the rendering practitioner must not perform a service in subgroup 9 if the practitioner and the patient have the capacity to undertake an attendance by telehealth.

#### **Group A40 – COVID-19 – medical practitioner phone services**

#### **Subgroup 9 – COVID-19 – consultant psychiatrist phone services**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Fee(\$)</b>
91837	Phone attendance for a person by a consultant psychiatrist; if: (a) the attendance is where: (i) the person is a patient at risk of COVID-19 virus; or (ii) the consultant psychiatrist is a health professional at risk of COVID-19 virus; and (b) the attendance follows a referral of the patient to the consultant psychiatrist by a referring practitioner; and (c) the attendance was not more than 15 minutes duration; and (d) the patient is not an admitted patient; and (e) the service is bulk-billed.	44.70
91838	Phone attendance for a person by a consultant psychiatrist; if: (a) the attendance is where: (i) the person is a patient at risk of COVID-19 virus; or (ii) the consultant psychiatrist is a health professional at risk of COVID-19 virus; and (b) the attendance follows a referral of the patient to the consultant psychiatrist by a referring practitioner; and (c) the attendance was of more than 15 minutes, but not more than 30 minutes in duration; and (d) the patient is not an admitted patient; and	89.15

	(e) the service is bulk-billed.	
91839	Phone attendance for a person by a consultant psychiatrist; if: (a) the attendance is where: (i) the person is a patient at risk of COVID-19 virus; or (ii) the consultant psychiatrist is a health professional at risk of COVID-19 virus; and (b) the attendance follows a referral of the patient to the consultant psychiatrist by a referring practitioner; and (c) the attendance was of more than 30 minutes, but not more than 45 minutes in duration; and (d) the patient is not an admitted patient; and (e) the service is bulk-billed.	137.25
91840	Phone attendance for a person by a consultant psychiatrist; if: (a) the attendance is where: (i) the person is a patient at risk of COVID-19 virus; or (ii) the consultant psychiatrist is a health professional at risk of COVID-19 virus; and (b) the attendance follows a referral of the patient to the consultant psychiatrist by a referring practitioner; and (c) the attendance was of more than 45 minutes, but not more than 75 minutes in duration; and (d) the patient is not an admitted patient; and (e) the service is bulk-billed.	189.40
91841	Phone attendance for a person by a consultant psychiatrist; if: (a) the attendance is where: (i) the person is a patient at risk of COVID-19 virus; or (ii) the consultant psychiatrist is a health professional at risk of COVID-19 virus; and (b) the attendance follows a referral of the patient to the consultant psychiatrist by a referring practitioner; and (c) the attendance was of more than 75 minutes in duration; and (d) the patient is not an admitted patient; and (e) the service is bulk-billed.	219.80