



## 4. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health assessments (MBS item 715)<sup>1</sup>

### Who is this document for?

- General practices
- Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services and other Indigenous Health Services

Fee*	Benefit	Frequency	Assistance
\$200.20	100% = \$200.20	Annual (not more than once during a 9 month period)	An Aboriginal Health Worker or Practice Nurse can assist the medical practitioner with information collection and with providing patient's information about recommended interventions.

\*Current as at 1 Nov 2010.

### Background

The aim of this MBS health assessment item is to help ensure that Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people receive primary health care matched to their needs, by encouraging early detection, diagnosis and intervention for common and treatable conditions that cause morbidity and early mortality.

### Eligible practitioners

This health assessment item may only be claimed by a medical practitioner (including a General Practitioner but not including a specialist or consultant physician).

### Patient eligibility

For the purpose of this item, a person is an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person if they, or their parent or carer, identify them as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent.

The MBS health assessment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people covers the full age spectrum. The requirements for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Health Assessment MBS item 715 vary depending on the age of the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person.

### Health assessment components

The health assessment includes an assessment of the patient's physical, psychological and social wellbeing. It also assesses what preventive health care, education and other assistance should be offered to the patient to improve their health and wellbeing.

#### This health assessment must include:

- information collection: patient history and undertaking examinations and investigations as required;
- overall assessment of the patient;
- recommending appropriate interventions;
- providing advice and information to the patient;
- recording the health assessment; and
- offering the patient a written report with recommendations about matters covered by the health assessment.

#### Optional:

- Offering the patient's carer (if any, and if the medical practitioner considers it appropriate and the patient agrees) a copy of the report or extracts of the report relevant to the carer.

### Type 2 diabetes risk management

Patients between 15–54 years of age who are at high risk of developing type 2 diabetes, as determined by the Australian type 2 diabetes risk assessment tool (AUSDRISK), may be referred to a subsidised lifestyle modification program.

## Restrictions

MBS item 715 does not apply for services that are provided by any other Australian Government, or state funded services. However, where an exemption under subsection 19(2) of the *Health Insurance Act 1973* has been granted to an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Health Service or state/territory government health clinic, MBS item 715 can be claimed for services provided by medical practitioners salaried by or contracted to, the service or health clinic so long as all requirements of the item are met.

## Guidelines and resources

- MBS Online: [www.health.gov.au/mbsonline](http://www.health.gov.au/mbsonline)
- Health assessment proformas: [http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/mha\\_resource\\_kit](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/mha_resource_kit)
- *National guide to a preventative health assessment in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, prepared by the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO)*: <http://www.naccho.org.au/Files/Documents/National%20guide%20to%20preventive%20health%20assessment.pdf>
- The Australian type 2 diabetes risk assessment tool: <http://www.health.gov.au/preventionoftype2diabetes>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Health and Ageing. MBS Online. Canberra:DOHA;2010. Available at: [www.health.gov.au/mbsonline](http://www.health.gov.au/mbsonline)

