

## Medicare Benefits Schedule Health Assessment Items Review Consultation



In September 2024, Cancer Council submitted to the consultation survey on the Review of the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) health assessment items.

Cancer Council recommended that the key focus of MBS subsidised health assessment services in primary care should be on preventative care and early intervention. Health assessments play an important role in population health, and subsidising these assessments provide an opportunity for GPs and primary care professionals to discuss risk factors for cancer and other chronic diseases.

Currently, the MBS health assessment items do not fully support preventive care with time constraints in medical appointments and workforce capacity limiting the potential for comprehensive medical assessments to be included as part of usual care. Cancer Council supports a greater focus on preventative care and health promotion activities in primary care that could lead to both the prevention and earlier diagnosis of cancer.

Other key issues and recommendations which were included in our submission include:

- The need to increase health literacy and awareness of behaviour risk factors linked to cancer, and to promote the role of health assessments in preventative care
- Providing a holistic, person-centred approach to health assessments, that is culturally appropriate and sensitive
- The need to expand the eligibility age for MBS health assessments to help increase the integration of these health services into practice, and help engage more people in preventative health care
- Expanding the workforce eligible for MBS items for health assessments to increase the accessibility of these services, especially for people living in remote or rural communities
- Combining the chronic disease, type 2 diabetes and heart health assessments into a single assessment, given the similarity in risk factors for common chronic conditions. This could help simplify the eligibility criteria and process to undertake these services in clinical practice
- The need to include MBS items for GPs to discuss National Cancer Screening Programs with their patients

Further information the review of the MBS health assessment items can be found on the Department of Health and Aged Care's [consultation hub](#).