



Cessation of COVID-19 Vaccine Support Items

As of 1 July 2025, all Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) items specifically introduced to support COVID-19 vaccine suitability assessments and related services have been ceased. This change reflects the completed transition to routine, business-as-usual arrangements for COVID-19 vaccinations, now aligned with existing immunisation programs under the National Immunisation Program (NIP).

Ceased MBS Items

The following MBS items for COVID-19 vaccine suitability assessments and related services are no longer claimable: 93644, 93645, 93646, 93647, 93653, 93654, 93655, 93656, 10660, 10661, 93660, 93661, 90005

Current Billing Arrangements

Standard MBS Items to Use

- GPs must now use general time-tiered attendance items (e.g., items 3, 23, 36, 44) or other relevant standard items when assessing a patient's suitability for COVID-19 vaccination.
- This approach is consistent with how other vaccinations (influenza, pneumococcal, etc.) are supported under the MBS as part of the National Immunisation Program.

Current Billing Requirements

- Medical practitioners only: Only medical practitioners can bill attendance items. These services cannot be provided on behalf of a GP by other practitioners (nurses, AHPs).
- Bulk billing status: Bulk billing is no longer mandatory; however, bulk billing incentives apply where eligible patients are bulk billed under standard MBS rules.

Date Issued:

September 2025

To Be Reviewed:

September 2026 (subject to MBS updates)

Approved by:

General Manager, Innovation, Evidence and Reform

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Action Items for Your Practice

Immediate Actions Required

1. Review billing processes to ensure ceased items are not claimed from 1 July 2025.
2. Update clinical software and practice management systems (e.g., Communicare or Best Practice templates).
3. Train staff on the new process—COVID-19 vaccine assessments now follow the same procedures as routine immunisations.

More Information

- **Online:** www.mbsonline.gov.au
- **Email:** askMBS@health.gov.au
- **Provider Line:** 13 21 50

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