

Health Insurance (Section 3C General Medical Services – COVID-19 Telehealth and Telephone Attendances) Amendment (Bulk-billing) Determination 2020

I, GREG HUNT, the Minister for Health, make the following Determination.

Dated 4 April 2020

Greg Hunt

Minister for Health

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1 Name

 This instrument is the *Health Insurance (Section 3C General Medical Services – COVID-19 Telehealth and Telephone Attendances) Amendment (Bulk-billing) Determination 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 | 6 April 2020 |  |

Note: This table relates only to the provisions of this instrument as originally made.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 section 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 Each instrument that is specified in a Schedule to this instrument is amended or repealed as set out in the applicable items in the Schedule concerned, and any other item in a Schedule to this instrument has effect according to its terms.

Schedule 1—Amendments

Health Insurance (Section 3C General Medical Services - COVID-19 Telehealth and Telephone Attendances) Determination 2020

1 Subsection 5(1)

Insert:

***concessional beneficiary*** has the same meaning as in section 84(1) of the *National Health Act 1953*.

***patient at risk of COVID-19 virus*** means a person who:

(a)   is required to self-isolate or self-quarantine in accordance with guidance issued by the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee in relation to COVID-19; or

(b) is at least 70 years old; or

(c)  if the person identifies as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent—is at least 50 years old; or

(d) is pregnant; or

(e) is the parent of a child aged under 12 months; or

(f)  is being treated for a chronic health condition; or

(g)  isimmune compromised; or

(h)   meets the current national triage protocol criteria for suspected
COVID-19 infection.

2 Subsection 8(4)

Repeal the subsection, substitute:

 (4) An item in a Schedule only applies to a service provided to the following persons if the service is bulk-billed:

(a) a person who is a patient at risk of COVID-19 virus; or

(b)  a person who is a concessional beneficiary; or

(c) a person who is under the age of 16.