

INFORMATION SHEET

Better Start for Children with Disability Helping Children with Autism MBS Items

In July 2011, the Australian Government introduced financial assistance packages to help children with disabilities and Autism Spectrum Disorders to access funding for early intervention therapies and treatment via Medicare Australia.

The **Better Start for Children with Disability** initiative assists children with sight and hearing impairment, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome and Fragile X syndrome to access treatment and therapy services.

The **Helping Children with Autism** assists children with an Autism Spectrum Disorder to access a range of specialised allied health services.

Eligibility for Medicare rebates

Better Start for Children with Disability

Eligible disability means any of the following:

- sight impairment that results in vision of less than or equal to 6/18 vision or equivalent field loss in the better eye, with correction;
- hearing impairment that results in:
- a hearing loss of 40 decibels or greater in the better ear, across four frequencies; or
- permanent conductive hearing loss and auditory neuropathy;
- cerebral palsy;
- Down syndrome; and
- Fragile X syndrome.

Children can access services under Better Start:

- if their condition is being managed by an eligible specialist, consultant physician or general practitioner under a disability treatment and management plan and that disability treatment plan is complete prior to the child's 13th birthday;
- if they are under 15 years of age for treatment services; and
- the child has **not already** accessed services under the *Helping Children with Autism* program.

Helping Children with Autism

Children with autism or other pervasive developmental disorder, can access the allied health Medicare services:

- if their condition is being managed by an eligible paediatrician or psychiatrist under an autism/PDD treatment and management plan and that autism/PDD treatment and management plan is complete prior to the child's 13th birthday;
- if they are under 15 years of age for treatment services; and
- the child has **not already** accessed services under the *Better Start for Children with Disability* initiative.

Intervention funding

In addition to Medicare rebates, both programs offer early intervention funding of up to \$12,000 per eligible child up to 6 years of age.

For more information about early intervention funding, see:

- www.health.gov.au/autism
- Autism Advisors – Autism Queensland Inc, ph 1800 428 847

www.mnbml.com.au

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Better Start for Children with Disability			
Item	MBS rebate	Number of services	Description
137	\$259	Once only	Specialist or Consultant Physician, referred consultation for assessment, diagnosis and development of a treatment and management plan for a child under the age of 13 with an eligible disability.
139	\$127.50		General Practitioner consultation for assessment, diagnosis and development of a treatment and management plan for a child under the age of 13 with an eligible disability.
Helping Children with Autism			
Item	MBS rebate	Number of services	Description
135	\$259	Once only	Consultant Paediatrician, referred consultation for assessment, diagnosis and development of a treatment and management plan for autism or any other pervasive developmental disorder .
289	\$259		Consultant Psychiatrist, referred consultation for assessment, diagnosis and development of a treatment and management plan for autism or any other pervasive developmental disorder.
Allied health items apply to both Better Start and Helping Children with Autism			
Item	MBS rebate	Number of services	Description
82000	\$97.90	Up to 4 services in total across allied health disciplines	For eligible psychologists to assist the referring medical practitioner with the diagnosis and development of a treatment and management plan, for a child aged under 13 years.
82005	\$86.30		For eligible speech pathologists to assist the referring medical practitioner with the diagnosis and development of a treatment and management plan, for a child aged under 13 years.
82010	\$86.30		For eligible occupational therapists to assist the referring medical practitioner with the diagnosis and development of a treatment and management plan, for a child aged under 13 years.
82030	\$86.30		For eligible Audiologists, Optometrists, Orthotics' or Physiotherapists to assist the referring medical practitioner with the diagnosis and development of a treatment and management plan, for a child aged under 13 years.
Item	MBS rebate	Number of services	Description
82015	\$97.90	Up to 20 services in total across allied health disciplines	Eligible psychologists to provide intervention treatment services, following diagnosis and consistent with the treatment and management plan provided by the referring medical practitioner, for a child aged under 15 years.
82020	\$86.30		Eligible speech pathologists to provide intervention treatment services, following diagnosis and consistent with the treatment and management plan provided by the referring medical practitioner, for a child aged under 15 years.
82025	\$86.30		Eligible occupational therapists to provide intervention treatment services, following diagnosis and consistent with the treatment and management plan provided by the referring medical practitioner, for a child aged under 15 years.
82035	\$86.30		For eligible Audiologists, Optometrists, Orthotics' or Physiotherapists to provide intervention treatment services, following diagnosis and consistent with the treatment and management plan provided by the referring medical practitioner, for a child aged under 15 years.

As at November 2011