

Preschool Field Officer Service

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| **HOW TO GET MEDICARE REBATES FOR SEEING THERAPISTS****(such as Speech Therapists, Occupational Therapists & Psychologists)** |

1. **CHRONIC DISEASE MANAGEMENT PLAN (formerly known as an Enhanced Primary Care Plan)**
* Rebates are available for Medicare card holders for children with chronic conditions (ongoing for six months or longer) that require ongoing care and support from a GP and allied health professional(s) (such as a Speech Therapist or Occupational Therapist).
* A maximum of five rebates per patient **each calendar year** can be obtained when receiving therapy through eligible allied health services.
* In order to obtain the rebates, the GP is responsible for creating a GP Management Plan (GPMP) for the child.
* Allied health services must be provided by eligible providers who are registered with Medicare Australia.
1. **MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT PLAN**
* A mental health treatment plan lets you claim up to 10 individual and 10 group sessions with a mental health professional each calendar year.
* To start with, your doctor will refer you for up to 6 sessions at a time. If you need more, they can refer you for further sessions. Health professionals set their own fees, so Medicare may only cover some of the cost.
* When you make your appointment, remember to ask:
	+ how much you’ll pay
	+ how much of the cost Medicare will cover.

It can be a useful idea to consider Telehealth, if access to in person appointments are difficult to find.

**HOW DO I GET ONE OF THESE PLANS?**

* Book a (longer) appointment with your GP.
* Visit your GP and ask the Doctor to complete a Chronic Disease Management Plan or a Mental Health Treatment Plan. To support your request, ensure the GP is aware that your child has **ongoing**difficulties and has for *at least six months*. It can be helpful to ask your teacher for some notes/observations of your child.
* Your GP will complete the required paperwork.
* You can request a particular allied health professional if you have found one you want to use, and they have agreed to see you.
* Contact the allied health professional to make an appointment and say you will be using a Chronic Disease Management Plan or a Mental Health Treatment Plan.
* Ensure that you take the paperwork from the GP with you, for the first appointment with the therapist.
* When you pay for the service you must receive a receipt which includes the therapist’s name and provider number as well as details of the referring GP.
* You can submit this to Medicare to receive the rebate. NOTE: You will need to register your bank details to receive a rebate from Medicare.