

NEW Medicare rebates available for Speech Pathology

From 1 March 2026, stuttering, speech sound disorders (SSD), and cleft lip and/or palate (cleft conditions) will be added to the list of eligible disabilities for Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) item group M10 - complex neurodevelopmental disorder and disability services.

What are the changes?

Effective 1 March 2026, the list of eligible disabilities will expand to include stuttering, SSD, and cleft conditions. Clients who are suspected of having, or are diagnosed with, these conditions will be able to access to MBS items under the M10 item group, including allied health assessment, diagnosis and treatment services.

What conditions are eligible?

- Stuttering
- a speech sound disorder
- an articulation disorder
- a phonological disorder
- childhood apraxia of speech (also known as dyspraxia, developmental verbal dyspraxia or speech apraxia)
- dysarthria (slurred speech)
- cleft lip; cleft palate; cleft lip and palate.

What does this mean for referrers?

Specialists, consultant physicians, and GPs may refer patients suspected of having stuttering, SSD, or cleft conditions to allied health professionals for assistance with diagnosis or development of a treatment and management plan

What rebates are available?

- Up to 8 assessment sessions
- Up to 20 treatment sessions (before turning 25)

How do I access these Medicare rebates?

- Visit your GP or specialist to discuss further
- Discuss your speech concerns
- Request an MBS M10 referral
- Send referral to your Speech Pathologist
- This is an expansion of an existing Medicare rebate program, not a new one (was known as Helping Children With Autism HCWA and Better Start Initiative BSI)
- Out of pocket costs would still apply (possibility for bulk billing in some circumstances)
- M10 sessions are separate from the Medicare care plan (rebate of \$61.80 for up to 5 sessions per year and additional 5 sessions for ATSI) sessions and may be used alongside, if eligible.
- The current rebate for M10 sessions is \$87.25.

All Areas Speech Pathology can accept these referrals and assist with you understanding your referrals and rebates issued.

Please reach out if you have any questions.