

**CHRONIC DISEASE MANAGEMENT ITEMS
JULY 2007-JUNE 2008**

SUMMARY

TABLE 1: GP services

The uptake of GP management plans, which had stabilised in 2006-07 with only a 5% increase over 2005-06, has increased by 22%. The uptake of team care plans has also continued, but at a slower rate than in 2006-07 (38% vs 57%)

Based on the number of GP management plans developed or reviewed in 2006-07 (1,086,753) it seems that only 43.5% of these were reviewed in 2007-08 , and on the same criteria, only one-third of team care plans from 2006-07 were reviewed in 2007-08. Both these figures, which would indicate a degree of continuity of coordinated care, were down on review figures from 2006-07, which averaged around 50% for both GP plans and team care plans. What does this mean for overall success of the program and for continuity of services to chronically ill patients?

Assuming 1 plan = 1 patient, then a total of 2 million patients had a GP management plan or a team care management plan in 2007-08, with almost twice as many patients managed on GP plans as on team care plans.

However the Explanatory Notes to the MBS state (A.30.9) that it is expected that in most cases a patient with complex needs would have both a GP management plan and a team care arrangement. Thus it is likely that the total number of patients managed under this program is less than the sum of the number of care plans developed and/or reviewed in any given year.

The uptake of GP plans for aged care patients increased by 28% over 2006-07, but numbers are still low. There are currently around 166,000 people in residential aged care facilities, and there are around 53,000 permanent admissions to residential aged care facilities every year. Only a fraction of these residents have a GP care plan.

Medicare reimbursement to GP for services provided in the community (100% rebate):

721	\$130.65
723	\$103.50
725	\$65.30
727	\$65.30
729	\$63.75
731	\$63.75

Two thirds of the cost of the CDM program in 2007-08 (total cost \$270 million, excluding dental costs) went to reimbursements for the development and review of management plans.

TABLE 2 & 3: Allied Health Services

All allied health services except those for mental health show an increase over levels in 2006-07.

The uptake of the item for Aboriginal Health Workers is minimal and is used only in NSW, Victoria and Queensland.

The item for audiology services is also little used, and is not used at all in the Northern Territory.

There has been a significant decline in the use of items for services provided by mental health workers and psychologists, reflecting the increasing use of the Better Access Medicare items which were introduced 1 November 2006.

A total of 1,321,747 allied health services were provided in 2007-08 (excluding dental services). This figure also represents the maximum number of people who received an allied health service under this program (an increase of 42% over 2006-07).

Given that each patient referred to allied health services under the CDM program is eligible for up to 5 services, then this program could be serving as few as 264,349 people. It appears that only a fraction of people with a management plan get referred on for allied health services.

72% of all AHS items are for physiotherapy and podiatry/chiropractic, which also account for 68% of all AHS costs.

TABLE 4: Dental services

With the introduction of a new set of items and a new cost cap for dental services under the CDM program in November 2007, the use of items 10975, 10976 and 10977 has almost ceased.

In line with its election commitment, the Government planned to close the Medicare chronic disease dental scheme to all patients by 1 July 2008, and to re-direct the savings to its new dental programs (Commonwealth Dental Health Program and Medicare Teen Dental Plan). However, on 19 June 2008, the Senate blocked the scheme's closure. On 16 September 2008, the Senate blocked the Government's second attempt to close the scheme. Therefore, the scheme remains open.

Uptake of these items (85011-87777) has not been analysed here.

TABLE 1: Chronic disease management Medicare items**GP services and cost July 2007 – June 2008**

Item	July'07	Aug'07	Sept'07	Oct'07	Nov'07	Dec'07	Jan'08	Feb'08	Mar'08	Apr'08	May'08	June'08	Total services	% previous year
721 GP mgt plan	57654	64517	60486	66132	71382	65360	61812	82677	81435	78584	75084	66305	831428	+22%
723 Team care arr	35545	40486	38173	41634	45368	41953	41310	57558	59948	54083	50617	44929	551604	+38%
725 Review GP mgt plan	36832	39362	36205	38345	38153	36637	35513	44789	41110	43948	43776	39010	473180	+16%
727 Review team care arr	11547	12673	12487	12695	12952	13075	14600	19009	17370	17356	17596	15515	176875	+41%
729 GP contrib. to review	135	190	164	180	189	188	183	185	183	234	210	217	2258	+48%
731 GP plan for aged care	2290	1924	2010	2106	2478	2293	2495	2694	2820	2711	2667	2616	29104	+28%
TOTAL SERVICES	144003	159152	149525	1561092	170522	159506	155913	206912	202866	196416	189950	168592	2064449	+26%
TOTAL COST	\$13.85m	\$15.41m	\$14.47m	\$15.67m	\$17.05m	\$15.91m	\$15.43m	\$20.63m	\$20.38m	\$19.57m	\$18.80m	\$16.67m	\$203.82m	+29%

**TABLE 2: Chronic disease management Medicare items
Allied health services and cost July 2007 – June 2008**

Item No	July'07	Aug'07	Sept'07	Oct'07	Nov'07	Dec'07	Jan'08	Feb'08	Mar'08	Apr'08	May'08	June'08	Total services	Change Prev yr	Total Cost (\$)
10950 AHW	-	-	10	2	5	21	-	1	2	7	2	1	51	+920%	\$2,428
10951 Diabetes educator	1731	1844	1628	2132	1943	2200	1732	2118	2200	2577	2890	2575	25570	+60%	\$1.22m
10952 Audiologist	71	66	64	60	87	46	42	58	46	52	65	59	716	+46%	\$35,582
10953 Ex physiologist	3299	3381	3069	3405	4036	3797	3072	3564	3716	4114	4470	4188	44111	+50%	\$2.10m
10954 Dietician	9592	10097	9475	10059	10186	10418	8153	9386	10690	12589	12227	11239	124111	+21%	\$5.92m
10956 M H worker	204	230	190	248	207	193	204	203	163	170	183	205	2400	-39%	\$120,244
10958 Occ therapist	999	1203	1137	965	1289	1478	879	1169	1221	1467	1493	1685	14985	+64%	\$770,195
10960 Physiotherapist	33779	33882	32517	34005	37965	38359	35276	36314	41884	47828	47289	44597	463695	+42%	\$22.06m
10962 Pod/Chiro	34163	36926	35178	37667	38660	33879	34641	44442	40434	52293	51861	51113	491257	+58%	\$23.29m
10964 Chiropractor	4124	4381	4152	4682	4925	4877	4491	5293	5537	6827	7179	6447	62915	+65%	\$2.92m
10966 Osteopath	2021	2059	1898	2252	2697	2424	2307	2635	2599	3485	3183	3083	30643	+74%	\$1.47m
10968 Psychologist	972	918	815	822	778	596	427	421	512	522	535	477	7788	-84%	\$415,322
10970 Speech path	3120	4107	3548	3545	4752	4903	2674	4500	5089	5501	6167	5599	53503	+96%	\$2.66m
Total													1321747		\$66,974988

**TABLE 3: Chronic disease management Medicare items
Services by state and territory July 2007 – June 2008**

Item No	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	ACT	NT
10950 AHW	16	31	4	-	-	-	-	-
10951 Diabetes educator	5368	10903	4336	2253	1586	777	53	4
10952 Audiologist	104	131	34	161	275	4	7	-
10953 Ex physiologist	15743	6275	9966	3324	7042	1205	459	97
10954 Dietician	49955	29161	25619	7396	10302	950	557	171
10956 M H worker	1045	599	323	375	37	18	-	3
10958 Occ therapist	6411	4608	2007	671	1182	10	40	56
10960 Physiotherapist	200087	131444	73199	22363	29922	4229	2054	397
10962 Pod/Chiro	178257	146677	65455	49765	39007	9964	1094	1038
10964 Chiropractor	31454	20968	5444	2663	1306	698	358	24
10966 Osteopath	10033	16417	2861	71	284	760	181	36
10968 Psychologist	3056	2213	1731	356	263	127	28	14
10970 Speech path	27567	13219	7414	1279	3508	325	127	66
TOTAL	529096	382646	198393	90677	94714	19067	4958	2196

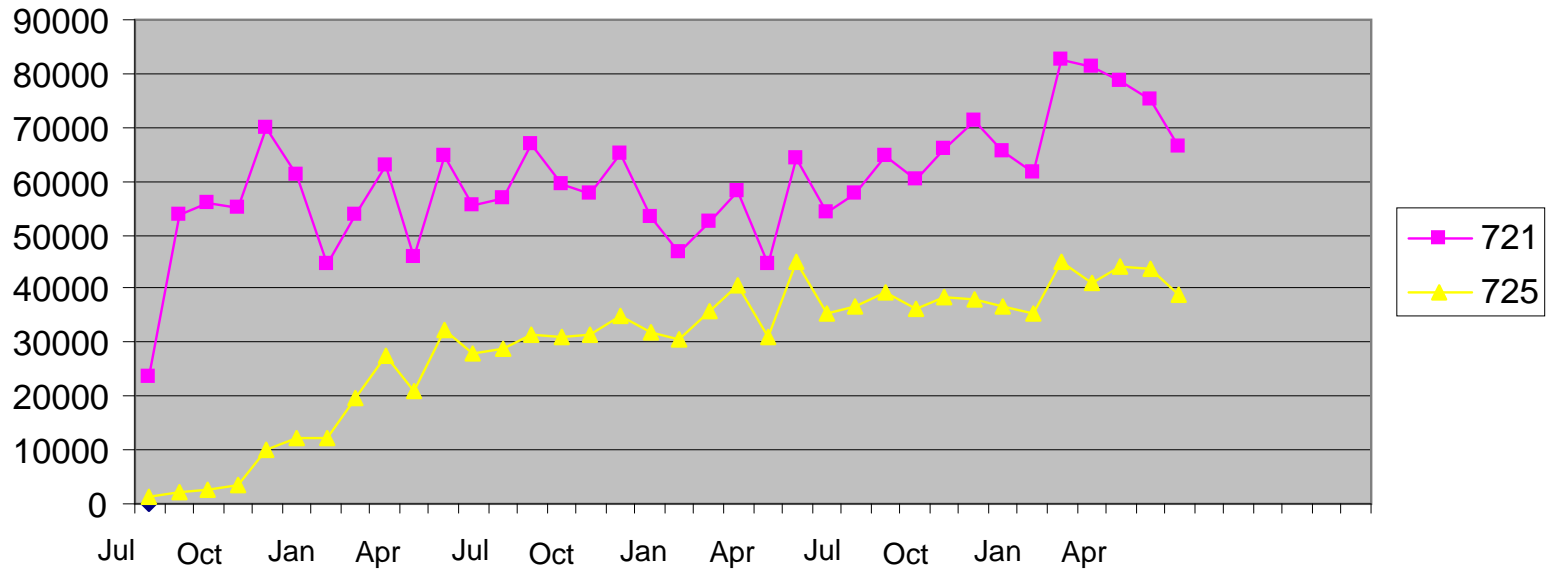
**TABLE 4: Chronic disease management Medicare items
Dental services and cost July 2007 – June 2008**

Item No	July'07	Aug'07	Sept'07	Oct'07	Nov'07	Dec'07	Jan'08	Feb'08	Mar'08	Apr'08	May'08	June'08	Total services	Change Pr yr	Total Cost (\$)
10975 Dental assessment	355	418	414	474	370	277	75	32	3	11	12	3	2444	-27%	\$190,633
10976 Treatment	463	539	524	614	482	312	113	39	6	11	20	4	3127	-28%	\$526,746
10977 Dentist referred treatment	2	10	6	11	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	45	+7%	\$88,970
TOTAL	820	967	944	1099	863	593	189	71	9	22	32	7	5616	-28%	\$806,349

**Chronic disease management Medicare items
Dental services by state and territory July 2007 – June 2008**

Item No	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	ACT	NT
All items	3416	1481	383	157	124	25	28	2

GP management plans and review



Team care plans and review

