

## **A.41.. MEDICATION MANAGEMENT REVIEWS - (ITEMS 900 AND 903)**

Item 900 - Domiciliary Medication Management Review A Domiciliary Medication Management Review (DMMR) (Item 900), also known as Home Medicines Review, is intended to maximise an individual patient's benefit from their medication regimen, and prevent medication-related problems through a team approach, involving the patient's GP and preferred community pharmacy or accredited pharmacist.

**Patient eligibility** The item is available to people living in the community who meet the criteria for a DMMR.

The item is not available for in-patients of a hospital, or care recipients in residential aged care facilities.

DMMRs are targeted at patients who are likely to benefit from such a review: patients for whom quality use of medicines may be an issue or; patients who are at risk of medication misadventure because of factors such as their co-morbidities, age or social circumstances, the characteristics of their medicines, the complexity of their medication treatment regimen, or a lack of knowledge and skills to use medicines to their best effect.

Examples of risk factors known to predispose people to medication related adverse events are:

- currently taking five or more regular medications;
  - taking more than 12 doses of medication per day;
  - significant changes made to medication treatment regimen in the last three months;
  - medication with a narrow therapeutic index or medications requiring therapeutic monitoring;
  - symptoms suggestive of an adverse drug reaction;
  - sub-optimal response to treatment with medicines;
  - suspected non-compliance or inability to manage medication related therapeutic devices;
  - patients having difficulty managing their own medicines because of literacy or language difficulties, dexterity problems or impaired sight, confusion/dementia or other cognitive difficulties;
  - patients attending a number of different doctors, both general practitioners and specialists;
- and
- recent discharge from a facility / hospital (in the last four weeks).

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### **REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS In conducting a DMMR, a medical practitioner must:**

- (a) assess a patient's medication management needs; and
- (b) following that assessment, refer the patient to a community pharmacy or an accredited pharmacist for a DMMR; and
- (c) with the patient's consent, provide relevant clinical information required for the review; and
- (d) discuss with the reviewing pharmacist the results of that review, including suggested medication management strategies; and
- (e) develop a written medication management plan following discussion with the patient.

Claiming A DMMR includes all DMMR-related services provided by the medical practitioner from the time the patient is identified as potentially needing a medication management review to the preparation of a draft medication management plan, and discussion and agreement with the patient.

The benefit is not claimable until all the components of the item have been rendered.

Benefits for a DMMR service under item 900 are payable only once in each 12 month period, except where there has been a significant change in the patient's condition or medication regimen requiring a new DMMR (e.g. diagnosis of a new condition or recent discharge from hospital involving significant changes in medication). In such cases the patient's invoice or Medicare voucher should be annotated to indicate that the DMMR service was required to be provided within 12 months of another DMMR service.

If the DMMR is initiated during the course of a consultation undertaken for another purpose, this consultation may also be claimed separately.

If the consultation at which the medication management review is initiated is only for the purposes of initiating the review only item 900 may be claimed.

If the medical practitioner determines that a DMMR is not necessary, item 900 does not apply. In this case, normal consultation items should be used.

Where a DMMR cannot be completed due to circumstances beyond the control of the medical practitioner (e.g. because the patient decides to not proceed further with the DMMR, or

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because of a change in the circumstances of the patient), the relevant MBS attendance items should be used.

### **FURTHER GUIDANCE**

A DMMR should generally be undertaken by the patient's usual medical practitioner. This is the medical practitioner, or a medical practitioner working in the medical practice, that has provided the majority of services to the patient over the previous 12 months and/or will be providing the majority of services to the patient over the coming 12 months.

The potential need for a DMMR may be identified either by the medical practitioner in the process of a consultation or by receipt of advice from the patient, a carer or another health professional including a pharmacist.

The process of referral to a community pharmacy or an accredited pharmacist includes:

- Obtaining consent from the patient, consistent with normal clinical practice, for a pharmacist to undertake the medication management review and for a charge to be incurred for the service for which a Medicare rebate is payable. The patient must be clearly informed of the purpose and possible outcomes of the DMMR, the process involved (including that the pharmacist will visit the patient at home, unless the patient prefers another location or other exceptional circumstances apply), what information will be provided to the pharmacist as part of the DMMR, and any additional costs that may be incurred; and
- Provision to the patient's preferred community pharmacy or accredited pharmacist, of relevant clinical information, by the medical practitioner for each individual patient, covering the patient's diagnosis, relevant test results and medication history, and current prescribed medications.
- A DMMR referral form is available for this purpose. If this form is not used, the medical practitioner must provide patient details and relevant clinical information to the patient's preferred community pharmacy or accredited pharmacist.

The discussion of the review findings and report including suggested medication management strategies with the reviewing pharmacist includes:

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- Receiving a written report from the reviewing pharmacist; and
- Discussing the relevant findings and suggested management strategies with the pharmacist (either by phone or face to face); and
- Developing a summary of the relevant review findings as part of the draft medication management plan.

Development of a written medication management plan following discussion with the patient includes:

- Developing a draft medication management plan and discussing this with the patient; and
- Once agreed, offering a copy of the written medication management plan to the patient and providing a copy to the community pharmacy or accredited pharmacist.

The agreed plan should identify the medication management goals and the proposed medication regimen for the patient.