

# Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health assessment continuity of care

## Referring for health assessment follow-up services when circumstances change

When an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patient moves to a new health service, they receive continuity of care from their new practice.

All eligible practitioners can refer their Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders patients for follow-up services (including MBS items 81300 - 81360) when the:

- patient has a current health assessment in place (MBS items 228 or 715)
- follow-up service are still available for claiming (yearly limits apply).

Follow up service item 10987 doesn't require referral. It can be provided by a Practice Nurse or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner, on behalf of the medical practitioner. Up to 10 services per calendar year can be claimed.

## Case Study

- Marley moves to a new location and visits your local health service.
- You recommend a health assessment (also known as a health check). Marley tells you that they had a health assessment 2 months ago at their previous health service.
- A new health assessment isn't needed to continue Marley's care.
- Use the MBS Items Online Checker in HPOS to check billing eligibility. You can't claim another health assessment (MBS item 715 or 228) if one has been billed in the last 9 months, but you can consider claiming a general attendance item.
- You determine Marley requires follow-up treatment and refer for allied health services (MBS items 81300 - 81360).
- A practice nurse or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner can also provide Marley with follow-up services (MBS item 10987) on your behalf.

Go to [mbsonline.gov.au](https://mbsonline.gov.au) for more information.

