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Telehealth and Medicare Psychologist sessions – Basic Information

1. What is Telehealth? In this context, it means providing Psychologist services, under Medicare, for those living outside metropolitan areas. (Usually Medicare Psychologist services need to be done “in person” to be able to get a Medicare rebate.)
2. The Australian Federal Department of Health say “Telehealth mental health items will be available to people living in Monash Modified Model (MMM) regions four to seven. The MMM is a classification system that categorises metropolitan, regional, rural and remote areas according to both geographical remoteness and town size.” (Broadly speaking this is people outside metropolitan areas¹);
3. To get a Medicare rebate for Psychologist sessions, the client needs to have a GP Mental Health Care Plan (MBS item No 2700, 2701, 2715, 2717, or 2712 for a review) before the first consultation;
4. To make use of Telehealth consultations, the client also needs to have Internet access, reliable enough to allow both visual and sound communication with the Psychologist;
5. To ensure my Professional Indemnity Insurance requirements are covered, I have a detailed agreement that needs to be read, signed and returned before doing internet sessions;
6. PLEASE NOTE: Psychologist sessions under Medicare are not “free”. The \$84.80 Medicare rebate for a 50 minute plus session, barely covers business overheads, before paying the Psychologist. (The recommended fee, is currently \$254.00², but I charge less - \$160 weekdays, \$180 Evening/Saturday);
7. Internet sessions would be charged at the same rate as for the usual “in person – in office” sessions, i.e. \$160 (weekday) or \$180 (evening or Saturday morning) with a \$86.15 Medicare rebate;
8. After the initial session, further bookings can be made either; a.) During a session; b.) By phoning my booking service on **1300 50 67 68**, or c.) Via my page on the HealthEngine.com.au or the links on my webpages;
9. A “Checklist” for deciding if, in your situation, you may be able to make use of the new Medicare Telehealth is over the page.

¹ See the website http://www.doctorconnect.gov.au/internet/otd/publishing.nsf/Content/MMM_locator to confirm you live within one of these areas.

² The fees recommended by *The Australian Psychological Society* (APS) for a standard 50-60minute consultation is \$246. (till 30th June 2018);

*When completed and signed please return by post, (to PO Box 142, Bayswater WA 6933)
fax (08) 9463 6378 or scan and email to clongworth@liferesolutions.com.au*