

MBS Mandatory eye checks for Health Assessments for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults and older people

From 1 May 2013, Medicare Benefits Schedule Item 715 (Health Assessment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples) guidelines have been amended and now include as mandatory components

Adult Health Assessment

- 2.16.12 (2) (b) history to include (x) 'vision'
(2) (c) examination to include (vi) 'eye examination'

Older Person's Health Assessment

- 2.16.13 (2) assessment to include (i) 'eye examination'.

The following recommended outline for eye checks in health assessments are provided with input from Optometrists Association Australia (OAA), Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists (RANZCO) and Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP).
... NACCHO?

These recommendations provide only a basic, simple and practical list of eye and vision screening steps for GPs and others providing Health Assessments.

Recommendations for vision history and including eye examinations for adults and older persons[^]

History

- Ask about problems/difficulties with vision or eyes
{Consider 'sore or watery eye' as possible symptom of trichiasis}
- Ask about problems with glasses or contact lenses
- Ask can you see clearly and comfortably both
when looking at things up close (eg when held in your hands) and
when looking at things far away
- Ask/check whether the person has diabetes?

Vision/visual acuity

- Measure near vision (binocularly, with glasses normally worn for this purpose, use any normal sized* print at any comfortable distance)
- Measure distance vision (each eye, with glasses normally worn for this purpose, proper acuity chart)

Eye examination

- Check eye movements
- Check pupils
- Check external and anterior eye
Lids, lashes, conjunctiva, cornea (trichiasis, pterygium, corneal scarring...)
Consider trachoma trichiasis 3 Ts – think, thumb, torch
- Check retina for people with diabetes
Ophthalmoscopy (dilated# funduscopy, retinal photography or referral)

Refer

- Vision/eye presentations where problems/difficulties not solved, including change in vision
- Diabetic retinal examination each year
- Reduced vision at near (worse than N8) or distance (worse than 6/12)

^ these recommendations apply to all people eligible for Adult and Older Person's Health Assessment including those aged from 15 to 40 years

*N8 print for those with near charts, standard text size of newspaper or magazine, numbers within text for non-English literate and near tumbling E (available from CERA <http://www.cera.org.au/our-research/resources/vision-screening-tools>)

dilated funduscopy conforms with NHMRC guidelines; undilated funduscopy does not meet the guidelines except with the use of a non-mydratic camera

References

CARPA	Standard Treatment Manual (2009)
CERA	http://www.cera.org.au/our-research/resources/vision-screening-tools
CRANaplus	Clinical Procedures Manual for remote and rural practice (2009)
Couzos and Murray	Aboriginal Primary Health Care (2008)
DoHA	Proposed MBS changes to Adult and Older Persons health assessment
DoHA	Medical Health Assessment forms (Child, Adult, Older Person)
NHMRC	Guidelines for the Management of Diabetic Retinopathy (2008)
RACGP/NACCHO	National guide to a preventative assessment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (2012)

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