

**SPEECH PATHOLOGISTS  
SCHEDULE OF FEES  
EFFECTIVE 10 DECEMBER 2020**



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Veterans' Affairs**

**DEFINITIONS**

**Treatment Cycle**

- Treatment cycle referral arrangements were introduced on 1 October 2019.
- For more information providers must refer to Notes for Allied Health Providers - Section One: General and Section 2(1).

**The treatment cycle does not apply to the following:**

<b>SH21-27</b>	<b>Evaluate Clinical Assessment</b>
<b>SH28-29</b>	<b>LSVT LOUD</b>
<b>SH90</b>	<b>End of Cycle Report</b>
<b>SH99</b>	<b>Request for Service</b>
<b>90004 – 93593</b>	<b>Extended Eligibility for Allied Health Treatment to Residential Care Recipients</b>

**Any allied health services provided to a DVA client while they are admitted to hospital.**

**Consultation/Assessment**

- Treatment for White Card holders must be related to an accepted disability. Eligibility must be established before starting treatment.

**Shaded items require prior financial authorisation from DVA. To obtain prior financial authorisation, please contact DVA using the contact details at the end of the Schedule.**

**FURTHER INFORMATION TO ASSIST YOU WHEN TREATING MEMBERS OF THE  
VETERAN COMMUNITY IS CONTAINED IN THE 'NOTES FOR SPEECH  
PATHOLOGISTS' AVAILABLE ON THE DVA WEBSITE AT:**

**<http://www.dva.gov.au/providers/allied-health-professionals>**

## **COVID-19 TELEHEALTH SERVICES**

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, consultations and clinical assessments may be delivered to all eligible DVA clients via telephone or video conferencing attendance for the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021. Telehealth services may only be provided if the full service can be delivered safely and in accordance with all relevant professional standards and clinical guidelines.

Providers will determine whether it is clinically appropriate to deliver a service via telehealth, but should include the following factors in their considerations:

- Can the client access and successfully use the technology?
- How practical is it to provide the required treatment or therapy via telehealth?
- Is the physical location in which a client is accessing telehealth safe and effective for the treatment?
- Does the health professional have a plan in place to address and mitigate any potential risk to the client?
- Has the client provided informed consent to participate in the telehealth service?

Providers delivering services via telehealth should ensure the technology platform they use:

- provides adequate video or telephone quality for the service being provided; and
- is secure enough to ensure normal privacy and confidentiality requirements are met.

## **TELEHEALTH ITEMS**

- Only claimable for treatment provided by telehealth from 1 April 2020 until 31 March 2021.
- Phone consultations can only be provided when video conferencing is unavailable.
- Also claimable for telehealth treatment delivered to clients in hospital or residential aged care facilities, for services not requiring prior approval.
- COVID-19 telehealth services are considered a consultation under the treatment cycle requirements (excluding LSVT LOUD).

<b>ITEM NO.</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>HOURLY RATE (excluding GST)</b>	<b>GST STATUS ++</b>
SH01	Consultation	\$110.80	GST-free
SH11	Conduct Clinical Assessment	\$110.80	GST-free
SH28	LSVT LOUD	\$110.80	GST-free

## FACE-TO-FACE SERVICES

### ROOMS

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	HOURLY RATE (excluding GST)	GST STATUS ++
SH01	Consultation	\$110.80	GST-free
SH11	Conduct Clinical Assessment	\$110.80	GST-free
SH21	Evaluate Clinical Assessment	\$110.80	GST-free

### HOME

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	HOURLY RATE (excluding GST)	GST STATUS ++
SH02	Consultation	\$110.80	GST-free
SH12	Conduct Clinical Assessment	\$110.80	GST-free
SH22	Evaluate Clinical Assessment	\$110.80	GST-free

## TREATMENT CYCLE

- Only one End of Cycle Report item can be claimed with each treatment cycle.
- Item is only claimable after an End of Cycle Report has been submitted to the DVA client's usual GP.
- To support continuity of care, an End of Cycle Report can be submitted after eight sessions of treatment. However, a total of 12 sessions should still be provided before moving to a new treatment cycle.
- Where the DVA client requires a shorter length of treatment and an additional treatment cycle is not required, a minimum of two sessions of treatment must be provided before an End of Cycle Report can be claimed.

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	FEE (excluding GST)	GST STATUS ++
SH90	End of Cycle Report	\$30.45	Taxable

## HOSPITALS

**Treatment cycle arrangements do not apply to allied health services provided to DVA clients while they are admitted to hospital.**

### **PUBLIC**

The Department will only pay for health care services carried out in public hospitals in exceptional circumstances, and when DVA has given prior financial authorisation.

<b>ITEM NO.</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>HOURLY RATE (excluding GST)</b>	<b>GST STATUS ++</b>
SH03	Consultation	\$110.80	GST-free
SH13	Conduct Clinical Assessment	\$110.80	GST-free
SH23	Evaluate Clinical Assessment	\$110.80	GST-free

### **PRIVATE**

The Department will only pay for health care services carried out by providers in private hospitals when the contract between DVA and the hospital does not already cover these services. It is the provider's responsibility to determine whether or not health care services are included in the bed-day rate under the DVA contract, before providing services, by contacting the Veteran Liaison Officer at the hospital or DVA.

<b>ITEM NO.</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>HOURLY RATE (excluding GST)</b>	<b>GST STATUS ++</b>
SH04	Consultation	\$ 110.80	GST-free
SH14	Conduct Clinical Assessment	\$ 110.80	GST-free
SH24	Evaluate Clinical Assessment	\$ 110.80	GST-free

## **RESIDENTIAL AGED CARE FACILITIES (RACFs)**

The level of care an entitled person receives in a RACF refers to the health status and classification of the eligible veteran, as determined under the *Classification Principles 2014*, not the facility in which they reside.

### **SERVICES NOT REQUIRING PRIOR APPROVAL IN RACFs**

Prior financial authorisation is not required for clinically necessary allied health services provided to an eligible veteran in a RACF classified as requiring a lower level of care who is not referred to in paragraph 7(6)(a) of the *Quality of Care Principles 2014*.

If a provider is in doubt about the classification of an eligible veteran in a RACF who has been referred to them, they must contact the facility. It is the provider's responsibility to ascertain the classification of an eligible veteran before they provide treatment.

<b>ITEM NO.</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>HOURLY RATE (excluding GST)</b>	<b>GST STATUS ++</b>
SH06	Consultation	\$110.80	GST-free
SH16	Conduct Clinical Assessment	\$110.80	GST-free
SH26	Evaluate Clinical Assessment	\$110.80	GST-free

### **EXTENDED ELIGIBILITY FOR ALLIED HEALTH TREATMENT TO RESIDENTIAL CARE RECIPIENTS**

These items are available from 10 December 2020 to 30 June 2022 (inclusive) for DVA clients living in RACFs. DVA clients living in RACFs may access up to five allied health services and up to five additional physical therapy services (physiotherapy, exercise physiology or occupational therapy) under Medicare chronic disease management arrangements.

The specified item numbers are also part of the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) and the rules and requirements of the MBS apply to services provided to DVA clients. As many item limits include other allied health services, providers are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the notes and rules applying to each item and ensure they adhere to them. More detailed information can be found in the Notes for Allied Health Providers, Section One: General and at [www.mbsonline.gov.au](http://www.mbsonline.gov.au).

In recognition of the additional time required, providers who visit a RACF to deliver services will be paid an additional 'flag fall' fee once per visit to a RACF (regardless of how many clients they treat within that visit). The Treatment Cycle does not apply to services under this arrangement and an End of Cycle Report item cannot be claimed in respect of these services.

Prior financial authorisation is not required to provide these services to DVA clients in high care. For any services required in excess of the limits on these arrangements, DVA's existing prior financial authorisation arrangements apply. DVA clients in low care can access mental health services under these new arrangements or under DVA's existing allied health arrangements.

**Providers are responsible for confirming whether an individual utilised their treatment thresholds prior to commencing a service.**

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	FEE (excluding GST)	GST STATUS ++
93513	Initial Consultation 30+ minutes	\$99.45	GST-free
93536	Subsequent Consultation 20+ minutes	\$66.30	GST-free
<b>TELEHEALTH ITEMS</b>			
93537	Subsequent Consultation 20+ minutes – Video Conference	\$66.30	GST-free
93538	Subsequent Consultation 20+ minutes – Phone Consultation	\$66.30	GST-free
<b>ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HEALTH SERVICES</b>			
93558	Initial Consultation 30+ minutes	\$99.45	GST-free
93591	Subsequent Consultation 20+ minutes	\$66.30	GST-free
<b>ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HEALTH SERVICE : TELEHEALTH ITEMS</b>			
93592	Subsequent Consultation 20+ minutes – Video Conference	\$66.30	GST-free
93593	Subsequent Consultation 20+ minutes – Phone Consultation	\$66.30	GST-free

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	FEE (excluding GST)	GST STATUS ++
90004	Flag fall. <b>Only claimable once per facility per day, excluding telehealth or phone items.</b>	\$41.25	GST-free

### SERVICES REQUIRING PRIOR APPROVAL IN RACFs

Prior Financial authorisation is required before providing clinically necessary allied health services to an eligible client in a RACF classified as requiring a greater level of care as described in paragraph 7(6)(a) of the *Quality of Care Principles 2014*.

Note: A client in a RACF classified as requiring a greater level of care is described in paragraph 7(6)(a) of the *Quality of Care Principles 2014* as a care recipient in residential care whose classification level under the *Classification Principles 2014* includes any of the following:

- (i) high ADL domain category;
- (ii) high CHC domain category;
- (iii) high behaviour domain category;
- (iv) a medium domain category in at least 2 domains;
- (v) a care recipient whose classification level is high level residential respite care.

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	HOURLY RATE (excluding GST)	GST STATUS ++
SH05	Consultation	\$110.80	GST-free
SH15	Conduct Clinical Assessment	\$110.80	GST-free
SH25	Evaluate Clinical Assessment	\$110.80	GST-free

## SPECIAL CENTRE

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	HOURLY RATE (excluding GST)	GST STATUS ++
SH17	Conduct Clinical Assessment (i.e. visiting a specialist centre for special assessment; e.g. videofluoroscopy)	\$110.80	GST-free
SH27	Evaluate Clinical Assessment	\$110.80	GST-free

## LEE SILVERMAN VOICE TREATMENT PROGRAM

- The treatment cycle referral arrangements do not apply to the Lee Silverman Voice Treatment Program (LSVT LOUD).
- Only speech pathologists who have completed specialist training and are LSVT LOUD Certified Clinicians can provide the LSVT LOUD program to entitled persons.
- The program consists of 18 sessions:
  - 1 x Pre-treatment Initial Assessment session
  - 16 x Treatment sessions
  - 1 x Post-treatment Review Assessment session.
- The 16 individual treatment sessions are 60 minutes each in duration, and they are delivered on 4 consecutive days per week for 4 consecutive weeks.
- Prior approval is not necessary for the maximum of 18 sessions per 12 months.
- If the client requires more than 18 LSVT LOUD sessions in a 12 month period, prior approval must be sought.
- Items SH28 and SH29 should be claimed for all aspects of the program.

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	FEE (excluding GST)	GST STATUS ++
SH28	LSVT LOUD – <b>In Rooms</b>	\$110.80	GST-free

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	FEE (excluding GST)	GST STATUS ++
SH29	LSVT LOUD – <b>Out of Rooms</b>	\$110.80	GST-free

## **OUT OF ROOMS LOADING**

Out of Rooms loading is automatically added to consultations delivered outside of rooms. Only one loading per visit is permitted, and it is expected that you will perform the evaluation of assessments in your rooms.

<b>ITEM NO.</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>FEE (excluding GST)</b>	<b>GST STATUS ++</b>
Loading	Out of Rooms Loading	\$27.70	GST-free

## **DIRECT SUPPLY TO DVA**

*(Subject to prior financial authorisation)*

Use item number SH99 only when DVA contacts you directly to request that you provide:

- a written report; or
- a consultation or assessment to eligible veterans or war widows/ers, either separately or in conjunction with a written report.

For example, this may occur when DVA requires a second opinion concerning treatment for a veteran. DVA will give financial authorisation and advise the fee at the time of the request, according to the above schedule items. The kilometre allowance is included in the fee, and is **not** to be claimed in addition to the fee.

*Please note: This item does not cover the supply of clinical notes, care plans or other information requested by DVA as part of monitoring activities, as these are provided free-of-charge under DVA requirements.*

<b>ITEM NO.</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>FEE (excluding GST)</b>	<b>GST STATUS ++</b>
SH99	Report or service specifically requested by DVA	Fee specified at time of request	Taxable

## **KEY**

<b>++ Recognised Professional</b>	Paragraph 38-10(1)(b) of the GST Act states that only a 'recognised professional' can supply GST-free health services as listed in section 38-10. Please refer to section 195-1 of the GST Act for the definition of 'recognised professional' for GST purposes.
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## DVA CONTACTS

Further information on allied health services may be obtained from DVA. The contact numbers for health care providers requiring further information or prior financial authorisation for all States & Territories are listed below:

### PHONE NUMBER:

1800 550 457 (Select Option 3, then Option 1)

### POSTAL ADDRESS FOR ALL STATES AND TERRITORIES:

Health Approvals & Home Care Section  
Department of Veterans' Affairs  
GPO Box 9998  
BRISBANE QLD 4001

### DVA WEBSITE:

<http://www.dva.gov.au/providers/allied-health-professionals>

**DVA email for prior financial authorisation:**  
[health.approval@dva.gov.au](mailto:health.approval@dva.gov.au).

The appropriate prior approval request form can be found at: <https://www.dva.gov.au/providers/services-requiring-prior-approval>.

## CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT

For more information about claims for payment visit: [www.dva.gov.au/providers/how-claim](http://www.dva.gov.au/providers/how-claim)

**Claim Enquiries:** 1300 550 017  
(Option 2 Allied Health)

### Claiming Online and DVA Webclaim

DVA offers online claiming utilising Medicare Online Claiming. DVA Webclaim is available on the Services Australia (Medicare) [Provider Digital Access \(PRODA\) Service](#). For more information about the online solutions available:

- DVA Webclaim/Technical Support –  
Phone 1800 700 199 or email  
[eBusiness@humanservices.gov.au](mailto:eBusiness@humanservices.gov.au)
- Billing, banking and claim enquiries –  
Phone 1300 550 017
- Visit the Services Australia website at:  
<https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/organisations/health-professionals/subjects/doing-business-online-health-professionals>

### Manual Claiming

Please send all claims for payment to:

Veterans' Affairs Processing (VAP)  
Department of Human Services  
GPO Box 964  
ADELAIDE SA 5001

DVA provider fillable and printable health care claim forms & service vouchers are also available on the DVA website at:

<http://www.dva.gov.au/providers/forms-service-providers>