

Consultant psychiatrist, referred patient assessment and treatment plan

The patient is referred to a psychiatrist by a GP for the provision of an assessment and treatment plan to be undertaken by that GP for the patient.

An attendance of more than 45 minutes duration at consulting rooms during which:

- an outcome tool is used where clinically appropriate
- a mental state examination is conducted
- a psychiatric diagnosis is made
- the consultant psychiatrist decides that the patient can be appropriately managed by the referring GP without the need for ongoing treatment by the psychiatrist
- a 12 month treatment plan is provided to the GP which must:
 - a) comprehensively evaluate biological, psychological and social issues
 - b) address diagnostic psychiatric issues
 - c) make treatment recommendations addressing biological, psychological and social issues
 - d) be provided to the medical practitioner within two weeks of completing the assessment of the patient
- the diagnosis and treatment plan is explained and provided, unless clinically inappropriate, to the patient and/or the carer (with the patient's agreement)
- the diagnosis and treatment plan is communicated in writing to the GP
- the patient has not had a payment made under this Item in the preceding 12 months.

There may be circumstances in which the psychiatrist needs to see the patient for more than one session to be able to determine whether they can be appropriately managed by the referring GP without the need for ongoing treatment by the psychiatrist (see 'Best Practice Psychiatry-Liaison'; RANZCP, 2006).