

Optometry Australia 2020 Schedule of recommended consultation fees for Telehealth Consultation



Optometry Australia has developed this fee schedule as a guide to appropriate fees for optometric practice to support sustainable clinical practice.

This fees schedule is provided as a guide only. Fees listed in the following schedule are directed at covering average costs associated with providing telehealth consultations, with a profit margin to support viable clinical provision of care.¹

Optometry Australia recommends that practices develop their own billing practices and fee structures, with careful consideration of what is appropriate to support the sustainability of the practice and, to the greatest extent practicable, support patient access to eye care. Assumptions made in the development of the fee schedule below may not be fully relevant to your practice and what is required to cover the costs of providing clinical care and support a viable and competitive clinical practice.

It is important that practices ensure patients are aware of consultation fees prior to the consultation being provided.

Service description	Assumed average consultation time (mins) ²	Fee ³
Brief Telehealth Consultation (less than 10 minutes)	10	\$43.14
Long Telehealth Consultation (greater than 10 minutes)⁴	20	\$84.56

¹ Fee development is based on a clinical service fee per 30 minute unit suggested by an independent health economist consultant following surveying of a selection of independent practices regarding practice costs. This unit cost is intended to represent all costs incurred on average per unit in the provision of clinical care, with the exception of costs associated with employing an optometrist to provide care. Estimated costs to employ an optometrist to provide each services have been added, based on the assumption of a total employment package of \$120,000 per full time equivalent, and an efficiency rate (that is time involved in providing clinical services that are billed) derived from average number of Medicare services provided per full time equivalent optometrist. Efficiency rates are derived on the basis of data from member surveying and analysis of MBS services provided by the full time equivalent workforce of practising optometrists. A standard profit margin of 20% of the full average cost of providing the consult has been factored in. Further detail regarding fee calculation processes is available on request: policy@optometry.org.au

² Average consultation time assumptions are based on results of a survey of a random sample of Optometry Australia members undertaken in 2013 not including items 10944-10948 which have been based on expert advice.

³ The recommended fees have been adjusted by 3.2% according to Consumer Price Index (Health) analysis for 2019 - <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/6401.0>

⁴ Optometry Australia note it would be unlikely that a telehealth consultation would require greater than 10 minutes in most cases.