



Letter to doctor re CHAP

Dear Doctor,

Re: New Medicare item to help you to provide health assessment for people with intellectual disability

People with intellectual disabilities are at greater risk of inadequate health screening and unrecognised disease than the general population.

The Department of Ageing Disability and Home Care wants to improve the health of people with an intellectual disability and would like all clients to receive a yearly healthcare assessment from their GP. The Department has licensed the Comprehensive Health Assessment Program (CHAP) because it was developed, tested (in a randomised control trial) and proven to improve healthcare delivery to this client group in the Australian general practice setting.

Section 1 of the CHAP is completed by the client's care worker and prompts the collection of a detailed history to assist you in your assessment and which you are asked to review. Section 2 provides you with information of commonly missed problems and health screening activities, and suggests a focussed comprehensive examination. It also lays out the structure for a care plan.

All GPs are encouraged to use the CHAP to perform a comprehensive annual medical assessment for the client. Completion of the CHAP by GPs is funded through the Medicare Benefits Schedule under Item Numbers 718 and 719 from 1 July 2007.

If a GP elects not to use the CHAP and uses some other assessment tool instead, a written report covering the key themes in relation to the client's health is requested.

Thank You