
All District Health Boards

17 April 2020

Dear PHO Chief Executive Officers

Virtual COVID-19 Assessments

On 29 March 2020 I advised all PHO CEOs of the [first COVID-19 support package](#) for general practice. This included a \$7.8 million allocation for general practice assessments, funded on a two-tier rate of \$120 for a simple assessment and \$250 for a full assessment. Both of these assessments must be for in-person consultations.

I am pleased to advise DHBs have agreed to introduce a virtual assessment to this framework. This will be funded at the general practice's normal patient co-payment level. Service expectations for this three-tier assessment process are set out in the appendix to this letter. All other requirements outlined in my letter of 29 March 2020 remain in place.

No additional funding has been allocated for these virtual COVID-19 assessments. Budgets will need to be managed from within the existing \$7.8 million allocation that is nationally available for general practice assessments.

If you have any questions, please contact your local DHB portfolio manager.

Yours sincerely



Dr Nick Chamberlain

Chief Executive, Northland District Health Board

Lead District Health Board Chief Executive for Primary Care and Public Health

cc: Liz Stockley, CEO, GPNZ
GMs Planning and Funding, All DHBs
Primary Care Portfolio Managers, All DHBs

Appendix: General Practice-Based COVID-19 Assessments: Three Tier Framework

Virtual assessment (Claim: Standard Co-payment)

- No co-payment
- No clawback
- Patient contacts the practice with concerns regarding COVID-19 symptoms
- The consultation is carried out by telephone or virtually by the GP
- The assessment may include a referral is made to CBAC, or other testing pathway for those who meet the Ministry of Health's case definition as it stands at any point in time ("the Case Definition")

Simple assessment (Claim: \$120)

- No co-payment
- No clawback
- Patient meets the Case Definition
- Patient has mild symptoms
- Consultation including visual check and basic observations
- Swab, if indicated (eg, in a carpark)
- One or two people in PPE
- Patient sent home with appropriate recommendations (eg, self-isolation)
- Patient advised of test results

Full assessment (Claim: \$250)

- No co-payment
- No clawback
- Patient meets the Case Definition
- Patient has moderate or severe symptoms
- Chest exam in the practice
- Swab undertaken
- Patient may require a follow-up check (not separately claimed for)
- Practice decontamination undertaken
- One or two people in PPE
- Patient advised of test results