

Helping Children with Autism Diagnosis & Treatment Plan

The package, introduced in 2008, assists children with autism or any other pervasive developmental disorders (PDD) such as Rett's Disorder, Asperger's Syndrome or childhood disintegrative disorder.

What does the program include?

From 1 July 2011, children eligible for the Helping Children with Autism program have access to a broader range of allied health professionals. Medicare items are available for eligible children to access services from eligible audiologists, occupational therapists, optometrists, orthoptists, physiotherapists, psychologists and speech pathologists.

Medicare items are available for:

- paediatricians and psychiatrists to diagnose and develop a treatment and management plan for a child aged under 13 years on referral from a general practitioner;
- audiologists, occupational therapists, optometrists, orthoptists, physiotherapists, psychologists and speech pathologists to provide up to four services in total per child per lifetime, to collaborate with the paediatrician or psychiatrist on the diagnosis, where required. These services must be provided before the child's 13th birthday; and
- audiologists, occupational therapists, optometrists, orthoptists, physiotherapists, psychologists and speech pathologists to provide up to 20 early intervention treatment services in total per child per lifetime following a diagnosis of autism/PDD for the child, and consistent with the treatment and management plan prepared by the referring practitioner. These services must be provided before the child's 15th birthday, provided an autism/PDD treatment and management plan was in place before the child's 13th birthday.

How do I get a Treatment Plan?

Your Paediatrician or Psychiatrist will develop this plan for your child with you. Please contact your Paediatrician, Psychiatrist or local Medicare office if you are unsure if you have a Helping Children With Autism Access to Diagnosis and Treatment plan.

Fact Sheet for Parents

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/autism-children-factsheetforparents>

Fact Sheet for Professionals

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/autism-children-factsheet>

Frequently Asked Questions

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/autism-children-questionandanswers>