

DRAFT CONSULTATION/ATTENDANCE ITEM STRUCTURE

(A) NON-REFERRED CONSULTATIONS – ROOMS, NURSING HOMES, HOSPITALS, INSTITUTIONS, HOME VISITS

1. **Consultation of approximately 5 minutes duration, where the clinical record demonstrates the straightforward nature of the task.**
2. **Consultation of approximately 10 minutes duration where the clinical record demonstrates that more than one of the following professional work activities were rendered:**
 - . taking a problem focused history;
 - . a problem focused physical and/or mental examination;
 - . a decision on a course of treatment, including where appropriate the need for a procedure and the risks thereof, for a condition of low complexity, and/or formulation and communication of a management plan;
 - . a review of effectiveness of existing treatment;
 - . lifestyle or other counselling of a specific nature;
 - . decision on and ordering of diagnostic tests or specialist referral.
3. **Consultation of approximately 15 minutes duration where the clinical record demonstrates that more than two of the following professional work activities were rendered:**
 - . taking a problem focused history;
 - . a detailed examination and assessment of the physical and/or mental condition of the patient;
 - . a decision on a course of treatment, including where appropriate the need for a procedure and the risks thereof, for a condition of low to moderate complexity and/or formulation and communication of a detailed management plan;
 - . lifestyle or other counselling of a specific nature;
 - . communication of other information commensurate with accepted clinical practice.
- 4A. **Consultation of approximately 20 minutes duration where the clinical record demonstrates that more than two of the professional work activities of the type described in Item 3 were rendered and that the consultation was of extended duration due to extenuating circumstances such as:**
 - . the nature of the patient's condition;
 - . the tasks involved;
 - . the number of problems requiring attention.
- 4B. **Consultation of approximately 20 minutes duration where the clinical record demonstrates that more than two of the professional work activities of the type described in Item 3 were rendered and the nature of the service requires breaks in continuity.**
- 5N. **Consultation of approximately 30 minutes duration with a new patient where the clinical record demonstrates that more than two of the following professional work activities were rendered:**
 - . a comprehensive consultative, history taking, and/or counselling process;
 - . a comprehensive physical examination of the patient;
 - . detailed evaluation of the patient's condition;
 - . arriving at a diagnosis, and a decision relating to the patient's need to undertake a procedure other than a minor procedure or diagnostic test;
 - . a comprehensive review of the effectiveness of existing treatment regimens and decision on current and future treatment options;
 - . the personal communication by the doctor of sufficient information to allow the patient to reach an informed decision on treatment or non treatment options.

- 5E. Consultation of approximately 30 minutes duration with an existing patient where the clinical record demonstrates that more than two of the following professional work activities were rendered;**
- . a comprehensive consultative, history taking, and/or counselling process;
 - . a comprehensive physical examination of the patient;
 - . detailed evaluation of the patient's condition;
 - . arriving at a diagnosis, and a decision relating to the patient's need to undertake a procedure other than a minor procedure or diagnostic test;
 - . a comprehensive review of the effectiveness of existing treatment regimens and decision on current and future treatment options;
 - . the personal communication by the doctor of sufficient information to allow the patient to reach an informed decision on treatment or non treatment options.
- 6N. Consultation of approximately 45 minutes duration with a new patient where the clinical record demonstrates that the consultation is characterised by the application of a full range of professional consulting and other skills to the diagnosis, management and/or treatment of one or more complex conditions or problems.**
- 6E. Consultation of approximately 45 minutes duration with an existing patient where the clinical record demonstrates that the consultation is characterised by the application of a full range of professional consulting and other skills to the diagnosis, management and/or treatment of one or more complex conditions or problems.**
- 7N. Consultation of approximately 60 minutes duration with a new patient where the clinical record demonstrates that the consultation involves professional activities of clear and unambiguous complexity and/or work content commensurate with a service of such duration.**
- 7E. Consultation of approximately 60 minutes duration with an existing patient where the clinical record demonstrates that the consultation involves professional activities of clear and unambiguous complexity and/or work content commensurate with a service of such duration.**
- 8N. Consultation exceeding 75 minutes duration with a new patient where the clinical record demonstrates that the consultation involves professional activities of clear and unambiguous complexity and/or work content commensurate with a service of such duration.**
- 8E. Consultation exceeding 75 minutes duration with an existing patient where the clinical record demonstrates that the consultation involves professional activities of clear and unambiguous complexity and/or work content commensurate with a service of such duration.**

(B) REFERRED CONSULTATIONS – ROOMS, NURSING HOMES, HOSPITALS, INSTITUTIONS, HOME VISITS

1. **Consultation of approximately 5 minutes duration where the clinical record demonstrates the straightforward nature of the task.**
2. **Consultation of approximately 10 minutes duration where the clinical record demonstrates that more than one of the following professional work activities were rendered:**
 - . taking a problem focused history;
 - . a problem focused physical and/or mental examination;
 - . a decision on a course of treatment, including where appropriate the need for a procedure and the risks thereof, for a condition of low complexity, and/or formulation and communication of a management plan;
 - . a review of effectiveness of existing treatment;
 - . lifestyle or other counselling of a specific nature;
 - . decision on and ordering of diagnostic tests or specialist referral.
3. **Consultation of approximately 15 minutes duration where the clinical record demonstrates that more than two of the following professional work activities were rendered:**
 - . taking a problem focused history;
 - . a detailed examination and assessment of the physical and/or mental condition of the patient;
 - . decision on a course of treatment, including where appropriate the need for a procedure and the risks thereof, for a condition of low to moderate complexity and/or formulation and communication of a detailed management plan;
 - . lifestyle or other counselling of a specific nature;
 - . communication of other information commensurate with accepted clinical practice.
- 4A. **Consultation of approximately 20 minutes duration where the clinical record demonstrates that more than two of the professional work activities of the type described in Item 3 were rendered and that the consultation was of extended duration due to extenuating circumstances such as:**
 - . the nature of the patient's condition;
 - . the tasks involved;
 - . the number of problems requiring attention.
- 4B. **Consultation of approximately 20 minutes duration where the clinical record demonstrates that more than two of the professional work activities of the type described in Item 3 were rendered and the nature of the service requires breaks in continuity.**
- 5N. **Consultation of approximately 30 minutes duration with a new patient where the clinical record demonstrates that more than two of the following professional work activities were rendered:**
 - . a comprehensive consultative, history taking, and/or counselling process;
 - . a comprehensive physical examination of the patient;
 - . detailed evaluation of the patient's condition;
 - . arriving at a diagnosis, and a decision relating to the patient's need to undertake a procedure other than a minor procedure or diagnostic test;
 - . a comprehensive review of the effectiveness of existing treatment regimens and decision on current and future treatment options;
 - . the personal communication by the doctor of sufficient information to allow the patient to reach an informed decision on treatment or non treatment options.

- 5E. Consultation of approximately 30 minutes duration with an existing patient where the clinical record demonstrates that more than two of the following professional work activities were rendered;**
- . a comprehensive consultative, history taking, and/or counselling process;
 - . a comprehensive physical examination of the patient;
 - . detailed evaluation of the patient's condition;
 - . arriving at a diagnosis, and a decision relating to the patient's need to undertake a procedure other than a minor procedure or diagnostic test;
 - . a comprehensive review of the effectiveness of existing treatment regimens and decision on current and future treatment options;
 - . the personal communication by the doctor of sufficient information to allow the patient to reach an informed decision on treatment or non treatment options.
- 6N. Consultation of approximately 45 minutes duration with a new patient where the clinical record demonstrates that the consultation is characterised by the application of a full range of professional consulting and other skills to the diagnosis, management and/or treatment of one or more complex conditions or problems.**
- 6E. Consultation of approximately 45 minutes duration with an existing patient where the clinical record demonstrates that the consultation is characterised by the application of a full range of professional consulting and other skills to the diagnosis, management and/or treatment of one or more complex conditions or problems.**
- 7N. Consultation of approximately 60 minutes duration with a new patient where the clinical record demonstrates that the consultation involves professional activities of clear and unambiguous complexity and/or work content commensurate with a service of such duration.**
- 7E. Consultation of approximately 60 minutes duration with an existing patient where the clinical record demonstrates that the consultation involves professional activities of clear and unambiguous complexity and/or work content commensurate with a service of such duration.**
- 8N. Consultation exceeding 75 minutes duration with a new patient where the clinical record demonstrates that the consultation involves professional activities of clear and unambiguous complexity and/or work content commensurate with a service of such duration.**
- 8E. Consultation exceeding 75 minutes duration with an existing patient where the clinical record demonstrates that the consultation involves professional activities of clear and unambiguous complexity and/or work content commensurate with a service of such duration.**

DEFINITIONS

1. **Duration of consultation**

For consultations other than in hospital the time refers to the approximate time spent with the patient on a one to one direct face to face basis.

For consultations in hospital the approximate time relates to all time in the ward dedicated to that patient which includes the time that the medical practitioner is present in the patient's ward and at the bedside with the patient. This includes the time in which the medical practitioner establishes and/or reviews the patient's chart, examines the patient, writes notes and communicates with other professionals and the patient's family.

Duration of consultation corresponds to intra service time.

2. **A new patient is:**

- (a) a non-referred patient who has not presented to that doctor or same group of doctors (to be defined) or at the same practice location in the last 6 months with substantially the same conditions or problems; or
- (b) a referred patient who with the new referral presents with one or more substantially new conditions or problems; or
- (c) a patient seen by a medical practitioner for the first time immediately prior to a procedure or administration of an anaesthetic¹.

3. **Referred consultation**

A referred consultation relates to a referral from another practitioner to a specialist or consultant physician for investigation, opinion, and/or management of a condition or problem of a patient. A formal letter of referral is normally required in relation to a referred consultation.

4. **Non-referred consultation**

Non-referred consultations relate to consultations provided by general practitioners, other medical practitioners and in respect of specialists and consultant physicians where there is no letter of referral.
