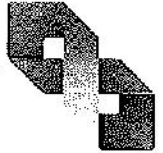


INFORMATION SHEET

medicare
local



GREATER METRO SOUTH BRISBANE

Connecting health to meet local needs

Access to Allied Psychological Services Program

What is Access to Allied Psychological Services Program (ATAPS)?

The ATAPS Program aims to improve access to quality primary mental health services for individuals who might otherwise be disadvantaged without access to these services. ATAPS is structured to incorporate a tiered approach.

Tier 1

Funding for individuals for whom Medicare based services are not affordable or appropriate, individuals unlikely to seek out Medicare Services and other 'hard to reach' groups including youth, Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people and people from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds.

Tier 2

Funding which provides supplementary capacity to ATAPS to increase efforts for particular target groups through some flexibility and innovative service delivery approaches.

Target groups in Tier 2 are:

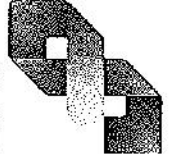
- Women with Perinatal Depression;
- Individuals who have attempted suicide or self harm or who are identified by a GP as being at high risk of suicide;
- Individuals who have been affected by a severe climactic event;
- Children with a mental health diagnosis or who are risk of developing a mental childhood behavioural or emotional disorder; or
- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people.

All ATAPS forms (electronic and paper versions) are available from the Greater Metro South Brisbane Medicare Local (GMSBML) website www.gmsbml.org.au

You will be required to login to access this page:

The Mental Health area username is: [REDACTED]

The Mental Health area password is: [REDACTED]



17th December 2012

Dear General Practitioner,

Greater Metro South Brisbane Medicare Local (GMSBML) has had an overwhelming response to the Access to Allied Psychological Services (ATAPS) Program and, in particular, our Suicide Prevention Service in the local area. As you may be aware, the establishment of the Medicare Local has meant that the number of GPs and Allied Health Providers (AHPs) registered with the ATAPS Program significantly increased. As a result, the number of referrals being received to access the Program has tripled.

To ensure that the Program achieves equitable service availability for both clients and providers, a decision has been made to limit the number of **Tier 1 (General) ATAPS referrals to three (3) referrals per GP (effective 1 January 2013)**. This decision will be reviewed in March 2013 and GMSBML will advise of any further changes or updates as soon as possible. It is important to note that each referral equates to six (6) sessions per calendar year, with a further block of six (6) sessions available if required (following review).

Any requests to increase the number of referrals beyond three (3) will be considered on a case by case basis. If you wish to have a request considered please contact the Mental Health Team on 1300 467 265 in the first instance.

The number of referrals being received to the Tier 2 Suicide Prevention Service currently exceeds the capacity of funding for that Service. We will be working closely with the AHPs, GPs and other referrers into this Service to ensure that only appropriate patients are being referred. There are strict eligibility criteria for each of the target groups under ATAPS Tier 1 and Tier 2 that must be followed under the funding guidelines. If you are unsure if your patient meets the criteria for Tier 1 or Tier 2, see the information sheet (over) or contact the Mental Health Team on 1300 467 265 for assistance. Inappropriate referrals or requests for further sessions can not be accepted.

We appreciate your assistance in these matters and thank you for your ongoing support of this service.

Yours sincerely,

John Torpy

Acting Chief Executive Officer

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