

Patients must see GP for review

The Federal Government's Mental Health scheme allowing people with a diagnosed mental disorder to access psychological services is charging full-steam ahead. But clients must be reviewed by their GP after six sessions.

About 80% of people referred to Psychology Consultants are now referred through this scheme, says director Kathryn Smith. "The new scheme is making psychological care far more accessible and acceptable in a community," she said. To be eligible for the first six sessions, patients need to be referred by a GP in the context of a GP Mental Health Care Plan (Item # 2710), or by a psychiatrist or paediatrician. After their sixth session with the psychologist, the patient must see their GP for a GP Mental Health Care Review (Item # 2712). At this time, the GP uses the psychologist's written report and assesses whether an additional six sessions would be beneficial for the patient. For more information, visit www.health.gov.au or our website, contact the Division of GPs, or call Morningside on 3395 8633 or Newmarket on 3356 8255.