



Accessing OT Services Through CHSP and AT-HM While Awaiting Support at Home Funding

Purpose

This document outlines the process for clients who have been allocated Assistive Technology and Home Modifications (AT-HM) funding but are still awaiting allocation of their ongoing Support at Home (SAH) budget.

In these circumstances, where My Aged Care (MAC) has allocated CHSP Allied Health and Therapy codes, these codes can be used to fund Occupational Therapy (OT) assessments while the client awaits commencement of their ongoing SAH package.

Support at Home Allied Health (SAHAH) is a registered Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) provider and can accept CHSP funding codes for eligible OT services.

Background

The Department of Health has established separate funding pathways for:

- Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP)
- Assistive Technology and Home Modifications (AT-HM)
- Ongoing Support at Home (SAH) funding

As these pathways operate independently, a client may be allocated their AT-HM funding before receiving their ongoing SAH budget.

The Department of Health confirms that participants can access their allocated AT-HM funding even while awaiting allocation of their ongoing Support at Home services.

In addition, CHSP includes funding for allied health services, including Occupational Therapy, where the client has been approved and allocated the relevant CHSP service codes.

Eligibility

This pathway may be used where a client:

1. Has not yet been allocated their ongoing Support at Home budget.
2. Has been allocated AT-HM funding and onboarded with a package provider.
3. Has active CHSP Allied Health and Therapy codes.

In these circumstances, Occupational Therapy services may be delivered and funded through CHSP while the client awaits allocation of their ongoing SAH package.



Process

1. CHSP Code Acceptance

The client's *Allied Health and Therapy - Occupational Therapy* code is accepted through My Aged Care.

2. OT Assessment

SAHAH provides Occupational Therapy services funded through CHSP.

4. Clinical Recommendations

Following assessment, SAHAH provides the client's reports, prescription documentation, quotations and recommendations for assistive technology and/or home modifications to the provider managing the client's AT-HM funding.

5. Implementation

The package provider coordinates with equipment suppliers and home modification contractors and progresses the recommended purchases and modifications using the client's AT-HM funding.

6. Transition to Ongoing Support at Home

Once the client's ongoing SAH package has been allocated, the package provider should notify SAHAH.

At this point:

- CHSP-funded OT services cease.
- The client transitions to being a Support at Home client.
- Future OT assessments and services are funded through the client's ongoing SAH budget, where appropriate.

Benefits of This Approach

Utilising CHSP Allied Health funding for the OT assessment allows the client's AT-HM funding to be preserved for its intended purpose: purchasing assistive technology and completing home modifications.

This approach:

- Maximises the funding available for equipment and modifications.
- Reduces the risk of AT-HM funds being depleted by assessment costs.
- Supports timely access to Occupational Therapy services.
- Prevents delays while clients are awaiting their ongoing Support at Home funding allocation.



Clients Without CHSP Allied Health Codes

Where a client has not been allocated CHSP Allied Health and Therapy codes, the Occupational Therapy assessment will be funded through the client's AT-HM budget.

When CHSP Codes Cannot Be Used

Once a client's ongoing Support at Home (SAH) budget has been allocated and commenced, CHSP-funded Allied Health services can no longer be accessed.

CHSP Equipment and Products code and CHSP Home Adjustments code cannot be used when ATHM has been allocated.

There are a limited number of circumstances in which a participant may continue to receive CHSP services after their SAH funding has commenced. These include:

- Pre-existing social support group activities
- Hoarding and squalor assistance
- Respite services
- Emergency and crisis support services

As Allied Health and Therapy services are not included in these exceptions, Occupational Therapy services cannot be delivered through CHSP once a client's ongoing SAH funding has commenced.

From this point, all Occupational Therapy assessments and services should be funded through the client's ongoing Support at Home budget, in accordance with their approved supports and available funding.