MBS Notice:

MBS item number PET for Alzheimer's Disease

Important reminder

A Medicare item is available for FDG PET brain imaging to assist in the diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease when other diagnostic methods have not provided a definitive diagnosis.

FDG PET study of the brain, performed for the diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease

Item 61560

For FDG PET study of the brain, performed for the diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease, if:

(a) clinical evaluation of the patient by a specialist, or in consultation with a specialist, is equivocal; and

(b) the service includes a quantitative comparison of the results of the study with the results of an FDG PET study of a normal brain from a reference database; and

(c) a service to which this item applies has not been performed on the patient in the previous 12 months; and

(d) a service to which item 61402 applies has not been performed on the patient in the previous 12 months for the diagnosis or management of Alzheimer's disease.

Applicable not more than 3 times per lifetime.

What does this item mean for providers and referrers?

This new item may be requested by specialists or consultant physicians. General practitioners may not request this item.

Like all MBS-eligible PET services, this new item must be provided by a specialist or consultant physician who is credentialed under the Joint Nuclear Medicine Specialist Credentialling Program for the Recognition of the Credentials of Nuclear Medicine Specialists for Positron Emission Tomography overseen by the Joint Nuclear Medicine Credentialing and Accreditation Committee of the Royal Australian College of Physicians (RACP) and the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists (RANZCR).

Why are these changes being made?

This item has been introduced on the recommendation of the Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC) for the diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease where other diagnostic methods are equivocal.

How will these changes affect patients?

This change will provide greater access for diagnosis for patients with suspected Alzheimer's Disease, and assist with planning and treatment, leading to improved health outcomes.

This information has been reprinted from the Australian Government Department of Health Medicare Benefits Schedule factsheet dated 1 Jan 2022. For more information visit the MBS Online website at **www.mbsonline.gov.au**

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