

# MBS Update:

From 1 July 2026, MBS item 55133 will be expanded to include patients receiving PBS-listed cardiac medicines with cardiotoxic side effects.

Item code 55133  
Commencing from 1 July 2026

## Transthoracic echocardiographic examination of the heart

### What are the changes?

MBS item 55133 has been expanded to include patients receiving eligible PBS-listed cardiac medicines that have recognised cardiotoxic side effects.

### Why has Medicare made this change?

Previously, Medicare-funded monitoring under this item was heavily focused on patients taking cardiotoxic medications for non-cardiac conditions (such as certain oncology treatments). This update removes that distinction, ensuring eligibility is driven entirely by the cardiotoxic risk of the medicine itself, rather than the condition being treated.

This change aims to:

- Align Medicare funding with contemporary clinical practice
- Improve consistency across therapeutic areas
- Support evidence-based cardiac monitoring

### What does this change mean for patients?

- Patients receiving eligible PBS-listed cardiac medicines now have access to Medicare-funded echocardiographic monitoring under item 55133 where clinically appropriate
- Expanding eligibility may reduce the need for alternative referral pathways or funding arrangements for patients requiring ongoing surveillance

### What does this change mean for clinicians?

- Regular monitoring may assist clinicians in identifying changes in cardiac function before symptoms become clinically significant
- The ability to monitor cardiac function during treatment can help clinicians balance therapeutic benefit with patient safety
- Ensures patients receiving cardiotoxic medicines have appropriate access to follow-up imaging
- Facilitate earlier identification of treatment-related cardiac changes

### Frequently asked questions:

#### Does this change the fundamental purpose or clinical indication of Item 55133?

No. The purpose remains strictly for the assessment and monitoring of cardiac function where clinically indicated.

#### Does every patient taking a heart medication now qualify?

No. Eligibility is strictly limited to patients taking specific, PBS-listed cardiac medicines that have documented, recognised cardiotoxic side effects.

#### Are any other echocardiography item numbers affected?

No. This amendment applies exclusively to MBS Item 55133. Existing eligibility for patients previously covered under this item remains unchanged.

#### Does this change referral requirements or scan frequencies?

No. Standard Medicare referral requirements, appropriate use principles and established clinical indications continue to dictate how often a scan can be performed.

