

MBS Update:

Item number removal:
Nurse Practitioner
imaging request eligibility

What are the changes?

Effective 1 July 2026, 20 diagnostic imaging items will be removed from the list of services that participating nurse practitioners can request.

Imaging requests referred by Nurse Practitioners

What are the changes?

Effective 1 July 2026, 20 diagnostic imaging items will be removed from the list of items able to be requested by participating nurse practitioners under Medicare.

Referrals for these services will need to be made by an eligible medical practitioner to attract a Medicare rebate.

Affected MBS Items:

55857, 55859, 55861, 55863, 55865, 55867, 55869, 55871, 55873, 55875,
55877, 55879, 55881, 55883, 55885, 55887, 55889, 55891, 55893, 55895

Why are these changes being made?

The change forms part of Medicare's ongoing review of diagnostic imaging request arrangements and aims to ensure imaging services are requested in accordance with the intended clinical and legislative framework.

What does this mean for requestors?

Requests for these specific items from participating nurse practitioners will no longer attract a Medicare rebate. To receive a rebate, the request must be issued by an eligible medical practitioner.

Nurse practitioners can still request other permitted diagnostic imaging services outside of these 20 items, and the clinical eligibility criteria remains the same.

How will this change affect patients?

Patients referred by a nurse practitioner for one of the affected services after 1 July 2026 will not be eligible for a Medicare rebate unless the request is issued by an eligible medical practitioner.

Where an affected service is requested by a nurse practitioner, patients will require a new referral from an eligible medical practitioner before the examination can proceed as a Medicare-funded service.

