

MBS Update:

New MBS items for breast cancer imaging

What are the changes?

From November 1, 2019, Medicare rebates will be available for two new MRI items and two new PET items for breast cancer.

MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING (MRI) FOR BREAST CANCER

Item 63531

New item (63531) for MRI of both breasts where the patient has a breast lesion, the results of conventional imaging examinations are inconclusive for the presence of breast cancer, and biopsy has not been possible.

Item 63533

New item (63533) for MRI of both breasts where the patient has been diagnosed with breast cancer, discrepancy exists between clinical assessment and conventional imaging assessment, and the results of breast MRI may alter treatment planning.

A dedicated breast coil must be used for these new services. These services can be provided on both full and partial eligible MRI machines.

What does this mean for providers and referrers?

These new items may be requested by specialists or consultant physicians. General practitioners may not request these items.

These new items must be provided by a specialist in diagnostic radiology who is a participant of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists' (RANZCR) Quality and Accreditation Program at an eligible location.

Why are these changes being made?

The Government is listing these services as an interim measure for four years, to allow time for research to

be undertaken through the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) on the benefits and effectiveness of these services and further consideration by the independent expert committee, the Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC). Further details about MSAC applications can be found under MSAC Applications on the MSAC website www.msac.gov.au.

How will these changes affect patients?

The changes will provide greater access for diagnosis for patients with possible breast cancer, and assist in treatment and surgical planning in patients with invasive breast cancer, leading to improved health outcomes.

This information has been reprinted from the Australian Government Department of Health Medicare Benefits Schedule factsheet dated 09/09/2019. For more information visit the MBS Online website at www.mbsonline.gov.au



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