

# MBS Update:

## Amended Item 63545 - MRI liver for characterisation or for staging where surgical resection or interventional techniques are under consideration

### What are the changes?

From July 1 2023 Item number 63545 will be amended to allow MRI of the liver for **characterisation** or for staging where surgical resection or interventional techniques are under consideration.

This item number only applies when requested by a specialist or consultant physician.

MRI of the liver for **characterisation** or for staging prior to surgical resection or interventional techniques.

### Item 63545

MRI—multiphase scans of liver (including delayed imaging, if performed) with a contrast agent, **for characterisation** or for staging where surgical resection or interventional techniques are under consideration, if:

- (a) the patient has a confirmed extra-hepatic primary malignancy (other than hepatocellular carcinoma); and
- (b) computed tomography is negative or inconclusive for hepatic metastatic disease; and
- (c) the identification of liver metastases would change the patient's treatment planning

Applicable not more than once in a 12 month period

### Indication

Amended Item 63545 can only be requested by a specialist or consultant physician and applies to patients with any cancer type with suspected or proven liver metastases (other than hepatocellular carcinoma), for the evaluation of liver metastases for **characterisation** or for staging before treatment.

### Other requirements

#### Clinical Notes and Diagnostic Imaging Request

The requesting specialist or consultant physician **is to record in the clinical notes of the request form:**

- the patient has a confirmed extra-hepatic primary malignancy (other than hepatocellular carcinoma), and
- computed tomography is negative or inconclusive for **hepatic** metastatic disease; and
- the identification of liver metastases would change the patient's treatment planning.

### What does this mean for referrers?

Referrers will benefit from having access to an amendment to the current MRI of the liver service (MBS Item 63545) to include all cancer types, excluding hepatocellular carcinoma (MBS Item 63546), and may have spread to the liver to help guide appropriate treatment.

### What does this mean for patients?

The change will provide greater access for patients to services that are contemporary and reflect best clinical practice leading to improved patient health outcomes.

### Why are these changes being made?

The changes are being made to ensure that diagnostic imaging services provided under Medicare are up to date and reflect best clinical practice.

This information has been reprinted from the Medicare Benefits Schedule, Diagnostic Imaging Changes 1 July 2023.  
For more information visit the MBS Online website at [www.mbsonline.gov.au](http://www.mbsonline.gov.au)

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