

MBS Update:

1 new MBS item number for initial staging rare & uncommon cancers

What are the changes?

From Nov 1, 2022 this item number will be introduced for the initial staging of eligible rare and uncommon cancer types. This item number only applies when requested by a specialist or consultant physician.

Positron Emission Tomography (PET) study for initial staging rare and uncommon cancers.

Item 61612

Whole body FDG PET study for the initial staging of eligible cancer types for a patient who is considered suitable for active therapy, if

(a) The eligible cancer type is:

- (i) A rare or uncommon cancer (less than 12 cases per 100,000 persons per year); and**
- (ii) A typically FDG-avid cancer; and**

(b) There is at least a 10% likelihood that the PET study result will inform a significant change in management for the patient

Applicable once per cancer diagnosis.

Indication

New item 61612 can only be requested by a specialist or consultant physician following a clinical evaluation that the patient is suitable for active therapy, requires initial FDG-PET staging to support this therapy and meets certain qualification criteria, including having a rare or uncommon cancer type.

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 that the patient has a rare or uncommon cancer that meets the eligibility criteria as stated in the item descriptor.

Continued over...

This information has been reprinted from the Medicare Benefits Schedule, Diagnostic Imaging Changes 1 November 2022 - Quick Reference Guide last updated 18 October 2022.

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MBS Update: 1 new MBS item number for PET for initial staging of rare or uncommon cancer types

What is rare or uncommon cancer types?

The following are considered rare or uncommon cancer types:

- anal cancer
- bladder cancer
- brain and other central nervous system (cancer of the)
- brain cancer
- gallbladder and extrahepatic bile ducts (cancer of the)
- gastrointestinal stromal tumours (GIST)
- Kaposi sarcoma
- liver cancer
- Merkel cell cancer
- Mesothelioma
- multiple myeloma
- ovarian cancer (incidence only)
- ovarian cancer and serous carcinomas of the fallopian tube
- pancreatic cancer
- penile cancer
- peritoneal cancer
- placenta cancer
- small cell lung cancer
- small intestine (cancer of the)
- stomach cancer
- testicular cancer
- thyroid cancer
- unknown primary site (cancer of)
- uterine cancer
- vaginal cancer
- vulvar cancer.

What does this mean for referrers?

Referrers will benefit from having access to a new PET item for the initial staging of rare and uncommon cancer types

What does this mean for patients?

Patients with rare or uncommon cancer types will receive a Medicare rebate for initial staging for PET services that are clinically appropriate and reflect modern clinical practice, leading to improved health outcomes.

Why are these changes being made?

The listing of these services was recommended by the Medical Service Advisory Committee (MSAC) in November 2022.

