

MBS Update:

Starting from 1 July 2025, there will be updates to two positron emission tomography (PET) services listed under the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS).

What are the changes?

MBS PET items 61612 and 61614 will be expanded to enable their use in the initial staging of any cancer that is typically fluorodeoxyglucose (FDG)-avid, and evaluation of FDG-avid cancers following initial therapy.

Positron emission tomography (PET) services

Item 61612 & 61614 PET

Starting from 1 July 2025, there will be changes made to MBS PET items 61612 and 61614. These items will be expanded to enable their use in the initial staging of any cancer that is typically fluorodeoxyglucose (FDG)-avid, and evaluation of FDG-avid cancers following initial therapy. This supports recommendations made by the Medicare Services Advisory Committee on these services.

Item Descriptor

61612 Whole body FDG PET study for the initial staging of cancer, for a patient who is considered suitable for active therapy, if:

- the cancer is a typically FDG-avid cancer; and
- 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 (R)

61614 Whole body FDG PET study, following initial therapy, performed for the evaluation of suspected residual, metastatic or recurrent cancer in a patient who is undergoing, or is suitable for, active therapy, if the cancer is a typically FDG-avid cancer (R)

What does this mean for requestors?

These changes will provide more options for requestors and providers. Requestors will benefit from improved clarity and consistency in claiming Medicare benefits. Providers will see enhanced support for their services, particularly through annual indexation. Overall, these updates will benefit both requestors and providers.

How will these changes affect patients?

These changes will enhance patient care by improving access to essential medical services and providing clarity in service provision. Patients will benefit from better access to diagnostic and treatment services, and those in aged care facilities will see increased requesting options for mobile x-ray services. These updates will lead to improved health outcomes and greater affordability for patients.

Why are the changes being made?

These changes are being made to enhance the overall quality and accessibility of Medicare funded diagnostic imaging services for patients. By updating item descriptors, the aim is to ensure that services better support patient access to these services leading to better health outcomes. Additionally, these changes support continued access to essential medical services. Overall, the updates are designed to improve patient care, affordability, and the efficiency of service delivery for these services.



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