

MBS Update:

New MBS item number PET for Alzheimer's Disease

What are the changes?

From November 1, 2021, this item has been introduced for the diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease where other diagnostic methods are equivocal.

FDG PET study of the brain, performed for the diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease

- Item 61560** **New item (61560) for FDG PET study of the brain, performed for the diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease, if:**
- (a) clinical evaluation of the patient by a specialist, or in consultation with a specialist, is equivocal; and
 - (b) the service includes a quantitative comparison of the results of the study with the results of an FDG PET study of a normal brain from a reference database; and
 - (c) a service to which this item applies has not been performed on the patient in the previous 12 months; and
 - (d) a service to which item 61402 applies has not been performed on the patient in the previous 12 months for the diagnosis or management of Alzheimer's disease.
- Applicable not more than 3 times per lifetime.

What does this item mean for providers and referrers?

This new item may be requested by specialists or consultant physicians. General practitioners may not request this item.

Like all MBS-eligible PET services, this new item must be provided by a specialist or consultant physician who is credentialed under the Joint Nuclear Medicine Specialist Credentialing Program for the Recognition of the Credentials of Nuclear Medicine Specialists for Positron Emission Tomography overseen by the Joint Nuclear Medicine Credentialing and Accreditation Committee of the Royal Australian College of Physicians (RACP) and the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists (RANZCR).

Why are these changes being made?

This item has been introduced on the recommendation of the Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC) for the diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease where other diagnostic methods are equivocal.

How will these changes affect patients?

This change will provide greater access for diagnosis for patients with suspected Alzheimer's Disease, and assist with planning and treatment, leading to improved health outcomes.

Unfortunately as the Medicare rebate with these scans is substantially less, we will have limited capacity to Bulk Bill and most patients will be asked to contribute to the cost of their scan.

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



**I-MED Radiology
Network**

Comprehensive care. Uncompromising quality.