

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.

PET FOR THE EVALUATION OF BREAST CANCER

Item 61524 A new item (61524) for whole body 18F-FDG PET study where the patient is referred by a specialist or consultant physician, performed for the staging of locally advanced (Stage III) breast cancer in a patient considered potentially suitable for active therapy.

Item 61525 A new item (61525) for whole body 18F-FDG PET study, where the patient is referred by a specialist or consultant physician, performed for the evaluation of suspected metastatic or suspected locally or regionally recurrent breast carcinoma in a patient considered suitable for active therapy.

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.

Like all MBS-eligible PET services, these new items 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?

The listing of these services was recommended by the Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC) in November 2018. The changes are supported by MSAC as safe, clinically appropriate and cost-effective services. 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 assist patients with advanced breast cancer to manage and plan their treatment, 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



**I-MED Radiology
Network**

Comprehensive care. Uncompromising quality.