

MBS Update:

1 new MBS item number for the assessment of treatment response and recurrence for patients with an eligible rare cancer

What are the changes?

From Nov 1, 2024 this item number will be introduced for the assessment of treatment response and recurrence for patients with an eligible rare cancer. This item number only applies when requested by a specialist or consultant physician.

Positron Emission Tomography (PET) study for assessment of treatment response and recurrence for patients with an eligible rare cancer.

Item 61614

Whole body FDG PET study for assessment of treatment response and recurrence for patients with an eligible rare cancer.

Item 61614 will provide a whole body fluorodeoxyglucose (FDG) PET study for the evaluation of suspected residual, metastatic or recurrent cancer for a patient who is undergoing or suitable for active therapy. It follows the introduction of PET item 61612 which was implemented on 1 November 2022 for the initial staging of rare cancers.

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 and that this whole body FDG PET is for the evaluation of suspected residual, metastatic or recurrent cancer for a patient who is undergoing or suitable for active therapy.

Continued over..



MBS Update:

1 new MBS item number for PET for the assessment of treatment response and recurrence for patients with an eligible rare cancer.

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 assessment of treatment response and recurrence for patients with an eligible rare cancer.

What does this mean for patients?

Patients with rare or uncommon cancer types will benefit from a Medicare rebate for PET for the assessment of treatment response and recurrence, leading to improved health outcomes.

Why are these changes being made?

The listing of this service was recommended by the Medical Service Advisory committee (MSAC) in November 2024.

