

MBS Update:

1 new MBS item number for MRI for patients with multiple pregnancy where fetal abnormality is suspected

What are the changes?

From Nov 1, 2022 several changes will be made to obstetric diagnostic imaging MBS services to help improve the health outcomes of pregnant women.

MRI scan for patients with a multiple pregnancy where fetal abnormality is suspected.

NEW MBS Item Number 63549

MRI scan of the pelvis or abdomen, for a patient with a multiple pregnancy, if:

- (a) the multiple pregnancy is at, or after, 18 weeks gestation; and
- (b) fetal abnormality is suspected; and
- (c) an ultrasound has been performed and is provided by, or on behalf of, or at the request of, a specialist who is practising in the specialty of obstetrics; and
- (d) the diagnosis of fetal abnormality as a result of the ultrasound is indeterminate or requires further examination; and
- (e) the MRI service is requested by a specialist practising in the specialty of obstetrics

Indication

New Item 63549 can only be requested by a specialist practising in the specialty of obstetrics and applies to patients with multiple pregnancies who have a suspected fetal abnormality.

Other requirements

Clinical Notes and Diagnostic Imaging Request

For Item 63549 the requesting specialist practising in the specialty of obstetrics **is to record in their clinical notes on the request form:**

- the patient has a multiple pregnancy; and
- the pregnancy is at, or after, 18 weeks gestation; and
- fetal abnormality is suspected; and ;
- an ultrasound has been previously performed and diagnosis of fetal abnormality is indeterminate or requires further examination of the patient

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

For more information visit the MBS Online website at www.mbsonline.gov.au



I-MED Radiology Network

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Changes to obstetric diagnostic imaging MBS services to help improve the health outcomes of pregnant women.

Summary of other changes:

MRI Scan Amended Item 63454

has been amended following a recommendation from Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC) to expand access to patients with suspected fetal abnormalities. The previous Item descriptor was confined to patients with central nervous system anomalies only.

Three NEW Ultrasound Items for:

- Assessing fetal development and morphology for a patient with a multiple pregnancy at 12-16 weeks gestation (MBS items 55740); and
- Measuring fetal nuchal translucency in a patient with a multiple pregnancy (MBS items 55742); and
- Assessing cervical length of a patient with a multiple pregnancy at 14-30 weeks gestation to determine risk of preterm labour (MBS items 55757)

What does this mean for referrers?

These changes will ensure that the diagnostic imaging services provided under Medicare are up to date and reflect best clinical practice.

What does this mean for patients?

The changes will provide greater access for patients to services that are contemporary and reflect best clinical practice leading to improved patient 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.

