

MBS Update:

New MBS item for MRI-guided prostate biopsy

What are the changes?

From 1 May 2020, rebates will be available for a new item for prostate biopsy when guided by MRI.

PROSTATE BIOPSY GUIDED BY MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING (MRI)

Item 37226 The new item (37226) is for needle biopsy of the prostate or prostatic bed, using prostatic magnetic resonance imaging techniques, where one or more prostatic specimens are obtained.

This biopsy item will be able to be provided by specialists and consultant physicians. The new item will be in the General Medical Services Table (GMST).

What does this mean for referring practitioners?

While a corresponding prostate MRI item is not currently listed on the MBS, this change is intended to provide an alternative to prostate biopsy under ultrasound guidance (item 37219). The new item will provide medical practitioners flexibility to choose the most appropriate imaging modality to guide a prostate biopsy.

Why are these changes being made?

The listing of this service was recommended by the Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC) Executive in June 2018. Further information on the role of MSAC can be found on the MSAC website www.msac.gov.au.

How will these changes affect patients?

This change will allow a Medicare rebate to be paid for patients who receive a prostate biopsy under MRI-guidance, and reduce patient out-of-pocket costs.

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



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