

# MBS Update:

## Amended Item 63476 - MRI of the pelvis for initial staging of rectal cancer (including cancer of the rectosigmoid and anorectum)

### What are the changes?

From November 1 2024 Item number 63476 will be amended to expand the eligible patient population to include its **use for the restaging and follow up of rectal cancer**. This item number only applies when requested by a specialist or consultant physician.

MRI of the pelvis for initial staging of rectal cancer amended to **expand the eligible patient population to includes its use for the restaging and follow up of rectal cancer.**

### Clinical Notes

Where available, MRI scanning should be requested by the patient's specialist or consultant physician following consideration of their management at a properly constituted oncological multidisciplinary team meeting.

Medicare benefits are not payable for surveillance of clinically well patients following completion of therapy, noting this does not exclude patients participating in active surveillance following complete clinical response.

#### What does this mean for referrers?

Referrers will benefit from having access to an amendment to the current MRI of the pelvis (MBS Item 63476) to expand the eligible patient population to include its use for the restaging and follow up of rectal cancer.

#### What does this mean for patients?

The change 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 changes are being made to ensure that diagnostic imaging service provided under Medicare are up to date and reflect best clinical practice.

