

MBS Update



New temporary MBS item number Cardiac MRI for myocarditis

What are the changes?

From 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2024, this item will be available to assist in diagnosing myocarditis that may occur after vaccination with the mRNA COVID-19 vaccines Comirnaty (Pfizer) and Spikevax (Moderna).

Item 63399

MRI scan of cardiovascular system for the assessment of myocardial structure and function, if the service is requested by a consultant physician who has assessed the patient, and the request for the scan indicates:

- (a) the patient has suspected myocarditis after receiving a mRNA COVID-19 vaccine; and
- (b) the patient had symptom onset within 21 days of a mRNA COVID-19 vaccine administration; and

(c) the results from the following examinations are inconclusive to form a diagnosis of myocarditis:

- (i) echocardiogram; and
- (ii) troponin; and
- (iii) chest X-ray.

Applicable once in a patient's lifetime.

Why are the changes being made?

Accurate diagnosis of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine associated myocarditis is critical to the ongoing management of Australia's COVID-19 vaccination program, including the rollout of mRNA booster doses, and the extension of mRNA vaccinations to children under the age of 12 years.

What does this mean for referrers?

Consultant physicians can request item 63399 in circumstances where it is clinically necessary, and the request meets the requirements in the item descriptor.

How will these changes affect patients?

Patients who have been vaccinated with Comirnaty (Pfizer) or Spikevax (Moderna) will have access to cardiac MRI in circumstances where it is clinically appropriate. The item can be used once in a patient's lifetime.

This information has been reprinted from the Australian Government Department of Health Medicare Benefits Schedule factsheet dated 16/12/2021. For more information visit the MBS Online website at www.mbsonline.gov.au



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