

MBS Update:

1 new MBS item number for cardiac magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) to diagnose myocarditis in acute onset heart failure or unexplained arrhythmia, or in suspected drug induced myocarditis.

What are the changes?

From 1 January 2025, this item number will be introduced for the diagnosis of myocarditis in acute onset heart failure or unexplained arrhythmia, or in suspected drug-induced myocarditis.

This item number only applies when requested by a specialist or consultant physician.

Cardiac MRI to diagnose myocarditis in acute onset heart failure or unexplained arrhythmia, or in suspected drug induced myocarditis.

Item 63390

From 31 December 2024, temporary item 63399 cardiac MRI for diagnosis of myocarditis that may occur after vaccinations with the mRNA COVID-19 vaccines Comirnaty (Pfizer) and Spikevax (Moderna) will be deleted and can no longer be provided. Patients who previously would have been eligible for this item number will be able to receive the new item.

Item Descriptor

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

- acute onset (less than 3 months) heart failure caused by suspected myocarditis which would otherwise require endomyocardial biopsy to confirm the diagnosis of myocarditis; or
- unexplained arrhythmia caused by suspected myocarditis which would otherwise require endomyocardial biopsy to confirm the diagnosis of myocarditis; or
- suspected drug-induced myocarditis, where the results from the following examinations are inconclusive to form a diagnosis:
 - troponin; and
 - chest x-ray, and
 - transthoracic echocardiogram.

The service can be performed on both partially and fully Medicare-eligible MRI machines.

What does this mean for requestors?

Specialists and consultant physicians can request Item 63390 in circumstances where it is clinically necessary, and the request meets the requirements in the item descriptor. Patients who previously would have been eligible for cardiac MRI for suspected myocarditis under temporary Item 63399 will be able to receive the new item.

How will these changes affect patients?

The changes will provide greater access for patients who need a cardiac MRI scan for the diagnosis of myocarditis, by removing the limitation on the patient having received an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine, or the symptoms having materialised within 21 days of receiving the vaccine. This will lead to improved health outcomes.

Why are the changes being made?

In addition to the MSAC consultation process, the Department of Health and Aged Care consulted with a wide range of stakeholders representing experts across the diagnostic imaging and medical sector, including consumer representative groups and those with expertise working with patients with cardiac and myocarditis related conditions. Stakeholders were supportive of the commencement of the new item on the MBS.

