



## MBS REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS: COMPLEX LUNG FUNCTION TESTS AND SPIROMETRY

Date of change 1 November 2018

Existing services **11503** **11506** **11509** **11512**

New services **11503** **11505** **11506** **11507** **11508** **11512**

### *Revised structure*

- Item 11503 will provide rebates for a range of common complex lung function tests that are supported by clinical evidence.
- New higher-rebated item for office-based spirometry to encourage the use of well performed spirometry in primary care.
- New item for Fraction of Exhaled Nitric Oxide (FeNO) with spirometry for patients who have airway inflammation as a cause of their symptoms.
- New item for Cardiopulmonary Exercise Testing (CPET) for use in specific circumstances, including patients who have breathlessness for which standard tests have not resulted in a diagnosis, or patients who are having major surgery and are at risk of a complication.
- Item 11509 has been removed from the Schedule. This service has been subsumed into item 11512 (laboratory-based spirometry).

### Existing item 11503

**Item:** Complex lung function tests.

**Service:** Broad range of tests that are outlined in the associated MBS Explanatory Note, however practitioners may choose to perform others.

**Billing Requirements:** Tests must be performed under the supervision of a specialist or consultant physician or in the respiratory laboratory of a hospital. Each occasion at which 1 or more such tests are performed.

**MBS Fee:** \$138.65

### Existing item 11506

**Item:** Office-based spirometry

**Service:** Permanently recorded tracing performed before and after inhalation of a bronchodilator.

**Billing Requirements:** Each occasion at which 1 or more such tests are performed.

**MBS Fee:** \$20.55.



## Existing item 11509

**Item:** Measurement of respiratory function.

**Service:** Permanently recorded tracing and written report, performed before and after inhalation of a bronchodilator.

**Billing Requirements:** Continuous technician attendance in a laboratory equipped to perform complex respiratory function tests (the tests being performed under the supervision of a specialist or consultant physician or in the respiratory laboratory of a hospital). Each occasion at which 1 or more such tests are performed.

**MBS Fee:** \$35.65.

## Existing item 11512

**Item:** Continuous measurement of the relationship between flow and volume during expiration or inspiration.

**Service:** Permanently recorded tracing and written report, performed before and after inhalation of a bronchodilator.

**Billing Requirements:** Continuous technician attendance in a laboratory equipped to perform complex lung function tests (the tests being performed under the supervision of a specialist or consultant physician or in the respiratory laboratory of a hospital). Each occasion at which 1 or more such tests are performed.

**MBS Fee:** \$61.75.



## New item 11503 – Complex Lung Function Tests

**Item:** Complex measurement of properties of the respiratory system, including the lungs and respiratory muscles.

**Service:** All tests which can be billed to the item are listed in the item descriptor.

**Billing Requirements:** Must be performed in a respiratory laboratory under the supervision of a consultant respiratory physician who is responsible for staff training, supervision, quality assurance and the issuing of written reports on tests performed. Each occasion at which one or more tests are performed.

**MBS Fee:** \$138.65.

## New item 11505 – Office-Based Spirometry (Diagnosis)

**Item:** Measurement of spirometry (diagnosis).

**Service:** Permanently recorded tracing, performed before and after inhalation of a bronchodilator – to confirm diagnosis of asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) or other causes of airflow limitation.

**Billing requirement:** Each occasion at which 3 or more recordings are made. Applicable only once per patient in any 12 month period.

**MBS Fee:** \$41.10.

## New item 11506 – Office-Based Spirometry (Monitoring)

**Item:** Measurement of spirometry (monitoring).

**Service:** Permanently recorded tracing, performed before and after inhalation of a bronchodilator – to confirm diagnosis of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), assess acute exacerbations of asthma, monitor asthma and COPD, assess other causes of obstructive lung disease or the presence of restrictive lung disease.

**Billing requirement:** Each occasion at which recordings are made.

**MBS Fee:** \$20.55.

## New item 11507 – Fractional Exhaled Nitric Oxide (FeNO) Spirometry

**Item:** Measurement of spirometry that includes continuous measurement of the relationship between flow and volume during expiration or during expiration and inspiration, performed before and after inhalation of a bronchodilator and fractional exhaled nitric oxide (FeNO) concentration in exhaled breath.

**Service:** A permanently recorded tracing and written report is provided – 3 or more spirometry recordings are performed unless difficult to achieve for clinical reasons.

**Billing requirement:** Measurement is performed under the supervision of a specialist or consultant physician, with continuous attendance by a respiratory scientist in a respiratory laboratory equipped to perform complex lung function tests.

**MBS Fee:** \$100.20.

Note: Full item descriptors will be available on the MBS Online website at: [www.mbsonline.gov.au](http://www.mbsonline.gov.au)



## New item 11508 – Cardiopulmonary Exercise Testing (CPET)

**Item:** Maximal symptom-limited incremental exercise test using a calibrated cycle ergometer or treadmill.

**Service:** The circumstances in which the test can be performed are outlined in the item descriptor.

**Billing requirement:** A respiratory scientist and a medical practitioner are in constant attendance during the test; the test is performed in a respiratory laboratory equipped with airway management and defibrillator equipment; Interpretation and preparation of a permanent report is provided by a consultant respiratory physician who is also responsible for the supervision of technical staff and quality assurance.

**MBS Fee:** \$290.80.

## New item 11512 – Laboratory-Based Spirometry

**Item:** Measurement of spirometry.

**Service:** Continuous measurement of the relationship between flow and volume during expiration or during expiration and inspiration, performed before and after inhalation of a bronchodilator.

**Billing requirement:** Performed in a respiratory laboratory equipped to perform complex lung function tests, under the supervision of a consultant physician practising respiratory medicine who is responsible for staff training, supervision, quality assurance and the issuing of written reports. A permanently recorded tracing and written report is provided; and for which 3 or more spirometry recordings are performed. Each occasion at which one or more such tests are performed.

**MBS Fee:** \$61.75.