



METex14sk testing to access tepotinib on the PBS – new item 73436

Last updated: 20 October 2022

What are the changes?

From 1 November 2022, one new pathology item (73436) will be listed on the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) for MET proto-oncogene, receptor tyrosine kinase (MET) exon 14 skipping alterations (*METex14sk*) testing in patients with locally advanced or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) to determine eligibility for treatment with tepotinib under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).

For private health insurance purposes, MBS item 73436 will be listed under the following clinical category and procedure type:

- Clinical category: Support list (pathology)
- Procedure type: Type C

Why are the changes being made?

At its November 2021 meeting, the Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC) supported the listing of a new MBS item for *METex14sk* testing in patients with locally advanced or metastatic NSCLC to determine eligibility for tepotinib under the PBS. Further information about the MSAC recommendation is in the MSAC Public Summary Document (PSD) under [MSAC application 1660](#).

At its March 2022 meeting, the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) recommended the listing of tepotinib for the treatment of patients with locally advanced or metastatic MET exon 14 skipping alterations-positive NSCLC. Further information regarding the PBAC decision can be found in the PBAC Public Summary Document (PSD) under [PBAC item 5.14](#).

What does this mean for providers and referrers?

New MBS item 73436 may be requested by a specialist or consultant physician for a patient diagnosed with locally advanced or metastatic NSCLC to determine if a patient meets the PBS eligibility requirements for tepotinib.

MBS Item 73436 is being listed as a 'pathologist determinable' service where the pathologist may determine the service to be necessary on the basis of information learned from a histopathology MBS item requested by a treating practitioner (i.e. MBS item 72813, 72816, 72817, 72818, 72823, 72824, 72825, 72826, 72827, 72828, 72830, 72836 or 72838).

How will these changes affect patients?

Eligible patients will have access to Medicare funded *METex14sk* testing to determine eligibility for treatment with tepotinib under the PBS.

METex14sk is a specific type of genetic variation that can result in faster tumour growth. Patients with *METex14sk* have a worse prognosis than those without these alterations. Tepotinib is a targeted drug that can improve health outcomes in patients who have *METex14sk*.

Who was consulted on the changes?

MSAC provides advice to Government on new or existing medical services or technology, and the circumstances under which public funding should be supported through listing on the MBS. This includes the listing of new items, or amendments to existing items on the MBS.

During the MSAC process, letters of support for the listing of a new MBS item for *METex14sk* testing in patients with NSCLC were received from Rare Cancers Australia and Genomics for Life. Additionally, the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia expressed support for the item to be pathologist determinable.

How will the changes be monitored and reviewed?

All MBS items are subject to compliance processes and activities, including random and targeted audits which may require a provider to submit evidence about the services claimed.

Where can I find more information?

The full item descriptor and information on other changes to the MBS are available on the MBS Online website at www.mbsonline.gov.au with this item becoming available on 1 November 2022. You can also subscribe to future MBS updates by visiting [MBS Online](#) and clicking 'Subscribe'.

The Department of Health and Aged Care provides an email advice service for providers seeking advice on interpretation of the MBS items and rules and the [Health Insurance Act 1973](#) and associated regulations. If you have a query relating exclusively to interpretation of the Schedule, please email askMBS@health.gov.au.

Subscribe to '[News for Health Professionals](#)' on the Services Australia website and you will receive regular news highlights.

If you are seeking advice in relation to Medicare billing, claiming, payments, or obtaining a provider number, please go to the Health Professionals page on the Services Australia website or contact the Services Australia on the Provider Enquiry Line – 13 21 50.

The data file for software vendors when available can be accessed via the [Downloads](#) page.

Please note that the information provided is a general guide only. It is ultimately the responsibility of treating practitioners to use their professional judgment to determine the most clinically appropriate services to provide, and then to ensure that any services billed to Medicare fully meet the eligibility requirements outlined in the legislation.

This sheet is current as of the Last updated date shown above and does not account for MBS changes since that date.

New MBS item descriptor (effective from 1 November 2022)

Item: 73436

Item descriptor: A test of tumour tissue from a patient diagnosed with locally advanced or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer requested by, or on behalf of, a specialist or consultant physician to determine if the requirements relating to MET proto-oncogene, receptor tyrosine kinase (MET) exon 14 skipping alteration (METex14sk) status for access to tepotinib are fulfilled under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

Fee: \$397.35 **Benefit:** 75% = \$298.05 85% = \$337.75