

Department of Health Factsheet MBS Chemotherapeutic Procedures

On 1 November 2020, the structure to chemotherapeutic procedures listed on the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) will change. These changes result from the recommendations of the [MBS Review Taskforce Oncology Clinical Committee Report 2018](#) (publically available at www.health.gov.au), and progressive liaison between the Department of Health and peak professional bodies.

In the Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook (MYEFO) 2019-20, the Government announced changes to chemotherapy services listed on the MBS, and authorised the establishment of an Implementation Liaison Group (ILG) to support a 1 November 2020 implementation of changes to chemotherapy items listed on the MBS. The Chemotherapy ILG membership consisted of:

- Private Cancer Physicians of Australia (PCPA)
- Medical Oncology Group of Australia (MOGA)
- Clinical Oncology Society of Australia (COSA)
- Haematology Society of Australia and New Zealand (HSANZ)
- Australian Private Hospitals Association (APHA)
- Private Healthcare Australia (PHA)

The changes will result in the existing eleven administration items (items 13915 to 13942 and item 13948) being replaced by a single parenteral administration item (item 13950).

Health Insurance (General Medical Services Table) Regulations Descriptor

Item 13950

Parenteral administration of one or more antineoplastic agents, including cytotoxic chemotherapy or monoclonal antibody therapy but not agents used in anti-resorptive bone therapy or hormonal therapy, by or on behalf of the specialist or consultant physician – attendance for one or more episodes of administration.

MBS Fee: \$111.40 85%: \$94.70 75%: \$83.55

Rationale for Changes

- Established in 2015, the MBS Review Taskforce has considered how more than 5,700 items on the MBS can be better aligned with contemporary clinical evidence and practice, and improve the health outcomes for patients.
- The Oncology Clinical Committee determined that the existing 11 administration items did not reflect a level of clinical complexity or modern clinical practice. The current administration items are time tiered and procedural in their description. A move to a new item better reflects contemporary best practice.
- Both patients and providers will benefit from a simplified MBS structure for chemotherapy procedures listed on the MBS. This new structure more accurately reflects medical professional involvement in the oversight and management of therapeutic agents and their

associated side effect on patients, as opposed to the physical administration of chemotherapy.

Private Health Insurance

The private health insurance categorisation and classification for the new item 13950 will be:

- Procedure Type B Band 1 (same day accommodation); and
- Clinical category - *Chemotherapy, radiotherapy and immunotherapy for cancer.*

Long Term Implanted Drug Delivery Devices

Item 13945 (*accessing of long-term implanted drug delivery device for cytotoxic chemotherapy*) will be removed from the MBS. Additionally, the description for item 14221 listed under 'Other Therapeutic Procedures' will be amended to read:

'LONG-TERM IMPLANTED DEVICE FOR DELIVERY OF THERAPEUTIC AGENTS, accessing of, not being a service associated with a service to which item 13950 applies'.

The recommendation for the removal of item 13945 came from the MBS Review Taskforce - Oncology Clinical Committee. The Committee's rationale was that:

'... item 13945 has been increasingly used in conjunction with items for the administration of chemotherapy. However, preparation for the administration of a therapeutic agent is an integral component of the service of administering the therapeutic agent and should not receive a separate MBS benefit'.

In modelling the fee structure for the new administration item, the Department of Health applied a maintenance component when considering the MBS fee. Providers are encouraged to consider this when billing patients for services not listed on the MBS.

Additional Information

Further information relating to changes to chemotherapeutic procedures listed on the MBS can be directed to the Department of Health's AskMBS e-mail service at askmbs@health.gov.au. AskMBS responds to enquiries from providers who seek advice on interpretation of MBS items, explanatory notes and associated legislation. The advice is intended to assist health professionals, practice managers and others to understand and comply with MBS billing requirements. AskMBS works closely with policy areas within the Department of Health, and with Services Australia, to ensure enquirers receive accurate, authoritative and up-to-date information.

Note

Note that proposed new and amended listings on the MBS are subject to Government regulatory processing, Government consideration and passing by Parliament, and may change before listing.