



Quick Reference Guide: Varicose vein item changes

Date of change: 1 November 2021

Legislation: [Health Insurance Legislation Amendment \(2021 Measures No. 2\) Regulations 2021](#)

Amended items: [32500](#) [32507](#) [32508](#) [32511](#) [32514](#) [32517](#) [32520](#)

[32522](#) [32523](#) [32526](#) [32528](#) [32529](#)

No change items: [32504](#)

Revised structure

- From 1 November 2021, Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) varicose vein items will be amended to align with contemporary clinical practice. These items are being implemented separately to the remainder of the vascular services review recommendations.
- These amendments include the introduction of co-claiming restrictions to reduce inappropriate claiming and removal of out of hospital benefits for one item (32507).
- These changes clarify clinical indications, align varicose vein items with contemporary clinical practice and reduce their use for cosmetic purposes.

Patient impacts

- The changes support high value care and ensure patient safety. Patients with a demonstrated clinical need will continue to have access to Medicare rebates under these items.

Restrictions or requirements

- Providers will need to familiarise themselves with the changes to the varicose vein MBS items and any associated rules and/or explanatory notes. Providers have a responsibility to ensure that any services they bill to Medicare fully meet the eligibility requirements outlined in the legislation.
- **Claiming Same-Day Restriction:**
 - “Not being a service associated with” refers to a restriction preventing the payment of a benefit when the service is performed in association (on the same occasion) with a specific MBS item or item range; another MBS item within the same group or subgroup or a similar type of service or procedure.



- **Multiple Operation Rule (MOR) – applies if you bill 2 or more MBS items from Category 3, Group T8 for surgical services performed on a patient on one occasion:**

The Total schedule for all surgical items is calculated by applying the MOR. That is:

- 100% of the fee for the item with the highest schedule fee;
- plus 50% of the fee for the item with the next highest schedule fee;
- plus 25% of the fee for any further surgical items.

Applying this rule results in one total schedule fee for all surgical items billed.

(see explanatory note [TN.8.2](#) at MBS Online for more information)

- **Aftercare – post-operative care and treatment provided to patients after an operation:**
 - Aftercare is the post-operative care and treatment provided to patients after a surgical operation or procedure. This includes all attendances until recovery and the final check or examination. Aftercare services can take place at a hospital, private rooms or a patient's home. MBS fees for most surgical items in MBS Group T8 include an aftercare component.
 - Some MBS services don't include aftercare, and this is noted in their description. Group T8 items that do not contain this note include aftercare. Schedule fees for most surgical items include normal post-operative care. This means attendance items for normal aftercare cannot be billed. However, if the MBS description of the surgical item performed excludes aftercare, or if it's an unrelated condition or complications from the operation, an attendance item can be billed for providing aftercare.
- **Explanatory note TN.8.33:**
 - From 1 November 2021, TN.8.33 will be amended and will apply to amended items 32507, 32508, 32511, 32514, 32517, 32520, 32522, 32523, 32526, 32528 and 32529.

TN.8.33

Claiming Guide for the following procedures:

1. Sclerotherapy (Item 32500)
2. Surgical Dissection and Ligation (Items 32507, 32508, 32511, 32514, 32517)
3. Endovenous Laser Therapy (Items 32520 and 32522)
4. Radiofrequency Ablation (Items 32523 and 32526)
5. Cyanoacrylate adhesive (Items 32528 and 32529)

It is recommended that the medical practitioner performing the above procedures has successfully completed a substantial course of study and training in duplex ultrasound and the management of venous disease, which has been endorsed by their relevant professional organisation.



It is recommended that providers familiarise themselves with the symptoms to be used to assess the severity of chronic venous disease as indicated in the item descriptor. Providers should also refer to the latest Clinical impact, Etiology/Aetiology, Anatomy and Pathophysiology (CEAP) classification description for symptoms, to help determine when intervention is required.

- **Explanatory note TN.8.228:**

- From 1 November 2021, TN.8.228 will be added to include the definition of proximal reflux in relation to item 32500.

TN.8.228

Claiming Guide for the following procedures:

1. Sclerotherapy (Item 32500)
2. Surgical Dissection and Ligation (Items 32507, 32508, 32511, 32514, 32517)
3. Endovenous Laser Therapy (Items 32520 and 32522)
4. Radiofrequency Ablation (Items 32523 and 32526)
5. Cyanoacrylate adhesive (Items 32528 and 32529)

It is recommended that the medical practitioner performing the above procedures has successfully completed a substantial course of study and training in duplex ultrasound and the management of venous disease, which has been endorsed by their relevant professional organisation.

It is recommended that providers familiarise themselves with the symptoms to be used to assess the severity of chronic venous disease as indicated in the item descriptor. Providers should also refer to the latest Clinical impact, Etiology/Aetiology, Anatomy and Pathophysiology (CEAP) classification description for symptoms, to help determine when intervention is required.

Definition of Proximal Reflux (item 32500)

For the purposes of item 32500, proximal reflux can include: truncal, perforating, or other sources of ultrasound demonstrated reflux into the vein/s being treated.



Amended item 32500 – VARICOSE VEINS, multiple injections of sclerosant

Overview: This item has been amended to remove the reference to ‘varicosities measuring 2.5 millimetres or greater’ and replace with ‘where proximal reflux of 0.5 seconds or longer has been demonstrated and the service is not for cosmetic purposes’. This item has also been amended to clarify clinical indications and which items are not appropriate to claim with this procedure.

Descriptor: Varicose veins, multiple injections of sclerosant using continuous compression techniques, including associated consultation, one or both legs, if:

- (a) proximal reflux of 0.5 seconds or longer has been demonstrated; and
- (b) the service is not for cosmetic purposes; and
- (c) the service is not associated with:
 - (i) any other varicose vein operation on the same leg (excluding aftercare); or
 - (ii) a service on the same leg (excluding aftercare) to which any of the following items apply:
 - (A) 35200;
 - (B) 59970 to 60078;
 - (C) 60500 to 60509;
 - (D) 61109

Applicable to a maximum of 6 treatments in a 12 month period (Anaes.)

Billing requirement: Not claimable with items 35200, 59970, 60000, 60003, 60006, 60009, 60012, 60015, 60018, 60021, 60024, 60027, 60030, 60033, 60036, 60039, 60042, 60045, 60048, 60051, 60054, 60057, 60060, 60063, 60066, 60069, 60072, 60075, 60078, 60500, 60503, 60506, 60509, or 61109 on the same leg.

This item can be claimed to a maximum of 6 treatments in a 12-month period.

MBS fee: \$114.20 (no change)

Benefit: 75% = \$85.65 85% = \$97.10

Private Health Insurance:

Clinical Category: Heart and Vascular System

Procedure Type: Type C



Amended item 32507 – VARICOSE VEINS, sub-fascial ligation of one or more incompetent perforating veins

Overview: This item has been amended to clarify the clinical significance of signs and symptoms attributable to venous dysfunction and to clarify that the service is for sub-fascial ligation via open surgical approach. The changes also clarify which items are not appropriate to claim with this procedure and out-of-hospital benefits have been removed.

Descriptor: Varicose veins, sub-fascial ligation of one or more incompetent perforating veins in one leg of a patient, if the service:

(a) is performed by open surgical technique (not including endoscopic ligation) and the patient has significant signs or symptoms (including one or more of the following signs or symptoms) attributable to venous reflux:

- (i) ache;
- (ii) pain;
- (iii) tightness;
- (iv) skin irritation;
- (v) heaviness;
- (vi) muscle cramps;
- (vii) limb swelling;
- (viii) discolouration;
- (ix) discomfort;
- (x) any other signs or symptoms attributable to venous dysfunction; and

(b) is not associated with:

- (i) any other varicose vein operation on the same leg; or
- (ii) a service (on the same leg) to which item 35200, 60072, 60075 or 60078 applies

(H) (Anaes.) (Assist.)

Billing requirement: Claimable in-hospital only. Not claimable with items 35200, 60072, 60075 or 60078 on the same leg.

MBS fee: \$555.25 (no change)

Benefit: 75% = \$416.45

Private Health Insurance:

Clinical Category:

Heart and Vascular System



Procedure Type:

Type A Surgical

Amended item 32508 – VARICOSE VEINS, complete dissection at the sapheno-femoral OR sapheno-popliteal junction

Overview: This item has been amended to clarify the clinical significance of signs and symptoms attributable to venous dysfunction and to remove references to 'long' and 'short' saphenous veins and replace with 'great' and 'small'.

Descriptor: Varicose veins, complete dissection at the sapheno-femoral or sapheno-popliteal junction, with or without either ligation or stripping, or both, of the great or small saphenous veins in one leg of a patient, for the first time on the same leg, including excision or injection of either tributaries or incompetent perforating veins, or both, if the patient has significant signs or symptoms (including one or more of the following signs or symptoms) attributable to venous reflux:

- (a) ache;
 - (b) pain;
 - (c) tightness;
 - (d) skin irritation;
 - (e) heaviness;
 - (f) muscle cramps;
 - (g) limb swelling;
 - (h) discolouration;
 - (i) discomfort;
 - (j) any other signs or symptoms attributable to venous dysfunction
- (H) (Anaes.) (Assist.)

Billing requirement: Claimable in-hospital only.

MBS fee: \$555.25 (no change)

Benefit: 75% = \$416.45

Private Health Insurance:

Clinical Category:

Heart and Vascular System

Procedure Type:

Type A Surgical



Amended item 32511 – VARICOSE VEINS, complete dissection at the sapheno-femoral AND sapheno-popliteal junction

Overview: This item has been amended to clarify the clinical significance of signs and symptoms attributable to venous dysfunction and to remove references to 'long' and 'short' saphenous veins and replace with 'great' and 'small'.

Descriptor: Varicose veins, complete dissection at the sapheno-femoral and sapheno-popliteal junction, with or without either ligation or stripping, or both, of the great or small saphenous veins in one leg of a patient, for the first time on the same leg, including excision or injection of either tributaries or incompetent perforating veins, or both, if the patient has significant signs or symptoms (including one or more of the following signs or symptoms) attributable to venous reflux:

- (a) ache;
 - (b) pain;
 - (c) tightness;
 - (d) skin irritation;
 - (e) heaviness;
 - (f) muscle cramps;
 - (g) limb swelling;
 - (h) discolouration;
 - (i) discomfort;
 - (j) any other signs or symptoms attributable to venous dysfunction
- (H) (Anaes.) (Assist.)

Billing requirement: Claimable in-hospital only.

MBS fee: \$825.45 (no change)

Benefit: 75% = \$619.10

Private Health Insurance:

Clinical Category: Heart and Vascular System

Procedure Type: Type A Surgical



Amended item 32514 – VARICOSE VEINS, ligation of the great or small saphenous vein on the same leg by re-operation for recurrent veins in the same territory

Overview: This item has been amended to clarify the clinical significance of signs and symptoms attributable to venous dysfunction and to remove references to 'long' and 'short' saphenous veins and replace with 'great' and 'small'.

Descriptor: Varicose veins, ligation of the great or small saphenous vein in the same leg of a patient, with or without stripping, by re-operation for recurrent veins in the same territory—one leg—including excision or injection of either tributaries or incompetent perforating veins, or both, if the patient has significant signs or symptoms (including one or more of the following signs or symptoms) attributable to venous reflux:

- (a) ache;
 - (b) pain;
 - (c) tightness;
 - (d) skin irritation;
 - (e) heaviness;
 - (f) muscle cramps;
 - (g) limb swelling;
 - (h) discolouration;
 - (i) discomfort;
 - (j) any other signs or symptoms attributable to venous dysfunction
- (H) (Anaes.) (Assist.)

Billing requirement: Claimable in-hospital only.

MBS fee: \$964.35 (no change)

Benefit: 75% = \$723.30

Private Health Insurance:

Clinical Category: Heart and Vascular System

Procedure Type: Type A Advanced Surgical



Amended item 32517 – VARICOSE VEINS, ligation of the great and small saphenous vein on the same leg by re-operation for recurrent veins in either territory

Overview: This item has been amended to clarify the clinical significance of signs and symptoms attributable to venous dysfunction and to remove references to 'long' and 'short' saphenous veins and replace with 'great' and 'small'.

Descriptor: Varicose veins, ligation of the great and small saphenous vein in the same leg of a patient, with or without stripping, by re-operation for recurrent veins in either territory—one leg—including excision or injection of either tributaries or incompetent perforating veins, or both, if the patient has significant signs or symptoms (including one or more of the following signs or symptoms) attributable to venous reflux:

- (a) ache;
 - (b) pain;
 - (c) tightness;
 - (d) skin irritation;
 - (e) heaviness;
 - (f) muscle cramps;
 - (g) limb swelling;
 - (h) discolouration;
 - (i) discomfort;
 - (j) any other signs or symptoms attributable to venous dysfunction
- (H) (Anaes.) (Assist.)

Billing requirement: Claimable in-hospital only.

MBS fee: \$1,241.80 (no change)

Benefit: 75% = \$931.35

Private Health Insurance:

Clinical Category: Heart and Vascular System

Procedure Type: Type A Advanced Surgical



Amended item 32520 – VARICOSE VEINS, abolition of venous reflux by occlusion of a primary or recurrent great OR small saphenous vein of one leg using a laser probe

Overview: This item has been amended to clarify the clinical significance of signs and symptoms attributable to venous dysfunction and to identify which items are not appropriate to claim with this procedure. References to cyanoacrylate 'embolisation' have been changed to cyanoacrylate 'adhesive'.

Descriptor: Varicose veins, abolition of venous reflux by occlusion of a primary or recurrent great or small saphenous vein (and major tributaries of saphenous veins as necessary) in one leg of a patient, using a laser probe introduced by an endovenous catheter, if all of the following apply:

- (a) it is documented by duplex ultrasound that the great or small saphenous vein (whichever is to be treated) of the patient demonstrates reflux of 0.5 seconds or longer;
- (b) the patient has significant signs or symptoms (including one or more of the following signs or symptoms) attributable to venous reflux:
 - (i) ache;
 - (ii) pain;
 - (iii) tightness;
 - (iv) skin irritation;
 - (v) heaviness;
 - (vi) muscle cramps;
 - (vii) limb swelling;
 - (viii) discolouration;
 - (ix) discomfort;
 - (x) any other signs or symptoms attributable to venous dysfunction;
- (c) the service does not include radiofrequency diathermy, radiofrequency ablation or cyanoacrylate adhesive;
- (d) the service is not associated with a service (on the same leg) to which any of the following items apply:
 - (i) 32500 to 32507;
 - (ii) 35200;
 - (iii) 59970 to 60078;
 - (iv) 60500 to 60509;



(v) 61109

The service includes all preparation and immediate clinical aftercare (including excision or injection of either tributaries or incompetent perforating veins, or both)

(Anaes.)

Billing requirement: Not claimable with items 32500, 32504, 32507, 35200, 59970, 60000, 60003, 60006, 60009, 60012, 60015, 60018, 60021, 60024, 60027, 60030, 60033, 60036, 60039, 60042, 60045, 60048, 60051, 60054, 60057, 60060, 60063, 60066, 60069, 60072, 60075, 60078, 60500, 60503, 60506, 60509, or 61109 on the same leg.

The service must not include radiofrequency diathermy, radiofrequency ablation or cyanoacrylate adhesive.

MBS fee: \$555.25 (no change)

Benefit: 75% = \$416.45 85% = \$472.00

Private Health Insurance:

Clinical Category: Heart and Vascular System

Procedure Type: Type C

Amended item 32522 – VARICOSE VEINS, abolition of venous reflux by occlusion of a primary or recurrent great AND small saphenous vein of one leg using a laser probe

Overview: This item has been amended to clarify the clinical significance of signs and symptoms attributable to venous dysfunction and to identify which items are not appropriate to claim with this procedure. References to cyanoacrylate 'embolisation' have been changed to cyanoacrylate 'adhesive'.

Descriptor: Varicose veins, abolition of venous reflux by occlusion of a primary or recurrent great and small saphenous vein (and major tributaries of saphenous veins as necessary) in one leg of a patient, using a laser probe introduced by an endovenous catheter, if all of the following apply:

(a) it is documented by duplex ultrasound that the great and small saphenous veins of the patient demonstrate reflux of 0.5 seconds or longer;

(b) the patient has significant signs or symptoms (including one or more of the following signs or symptoms) attributable to venous reflux:

- (i) ache;
- (ii) pain;
- (iii) tightness;
- (iv) skin irritation;



- (v) heaviness;
- (vi) muscle cramps;
- (vii) limb swelling;
- (viii) discolouration;
- (ix) discomfort;
- (x) any other signs or symptoms attributable to venous dysfunction;

(c) the service does not include radiofrequency diathermy, radiofrequency ablation or cyanoacrylate adhesive;

(d) the service is not associated with a service (on the same leg) to which any of the following items apply:

- (i) 32500 to 32507;
- (ii) 35200;
- (iii) 59970 to 60078;
- (iv) 60500 to 60509;
- (v) 61109

The service includes all preparation and immediate clinical aftercare (including excision or injection of either tributaries or incompetent perforating veins, or both)

(Anaes.)

Billing requirement: Not claimable with items 32500, 32504, 32507, 35200, 59970, 60000, 60003, 60006, 60009, 60012, 60015, 60018, 60021, 60024, 60027, 60030, 60033, 60036, 60039, 60042, 60045, 60048, 60051, 60054, 60057, 60060, 60063, 60066, 60069, 60072, 60075, 60078, 60500, 60503, 60506, 60509, or 61109 on the same leg.

The service must not include radiofrequency diathermy, radiofrequency ablation or cyanoacrylate adhesive.

MBS fee: \$825.45 (no change)

Benefit: 75% = \$619.10 85% = \$740.75

Private Health Insurance:

Clinical Category: Heart and Vascular System

Procedure Type: Type C



Amended item 32523 – VARICOSE VEINS, abolition of venous reflux by occlusion of a primary or recurrent great OR small saphenous vein of one leg using a radiofrequency catheter

Overview: This item has been amended to clarify the clinical significance of signs and symptoms attributable to venous dysfunction and to identify which items are not appropriate to claim with this procedure. References to cyanoacrylate 'embolisation' have been changed to cyanoacrylate 'adhesive'.

Descriptor: Varicose veins, abolition of venous reflux by occlusion of a primary or recurrent great or small saphenous vein (and major tributaries of saphenous veins as necessary) in one leg of a patient, using a radiofrequency catheter introduced by an endovenous catheter, if all of the following apply:

(a) it is documented by duplex ultrasound that the great or small saphenous vein (whichever is to be treated) demonstrates reflux of 0.5 seconds or longer;

(b) the patient has significant signs or symptoms (including one or more of the following signs or symptoms) attributable to venous reflux:

- (i) ache;
- (ii) pain;
- (iii) tightness;
- (iv) skin irritation;
- (v) heaviness;
- (vi) muscle cramps;
- (vii) limb swelling;
- (viii) discolouration;
- (ix) discomfort;
- (x) any other signs or symptoms attributable to venous dysfunction;

(c) the service does not include endovenous laser therapy or cyanoacrylate adhesive;

(d) the service is not associated with a service (on the same leg) to which any of the following items apply:

- (i) 32500 to 32507;
- (ii) 35200;
- (iii) 59970 to 60078;
- (iv) 60500 to 60509;



(v) 61109

The service includes all preparation and immediate clinical aftercare (including excision or injection of either tributaries or incompetent perforating veins, or both)

(Anaes.)

Billing requirement: Not claimable with items 32500, 32504, 32507, 35200, 59970, 60000, 60003, 60006, 60009, 60012, 60015, 60018, 60021, 60024, 60027, 60030, 60033, 60036, 60039, 60042, 60045, 60048, 60051, 60054, 60057, 60060, 60063, 60066, 60069, 60072, 60075, 60078, 60500, 60503, 60506, 60509, or 61109 on the same leg.

The service must not include endovenous laser therapy or cyanoacrylate adhesive.

MBS fee: \$555.25 (no change)

Benefit: 75% = \$416.45 85% = \$472.00

Private Health Insurance:

Clinical Category: Heart and Vascular System

Procedure Type: Type C

Amended item 32526 –VARICOSE VEINS, abolition of venous reflux by occlusion of a primary or recurrent great AND small saphenous vein of one leg using a radiofrequency catheter

Overview: This item has been amended to clarify the clinical significance of signs and symptoms attributable to venous dysfunction and to identify which items are not appropriate to claim with this procedure. References to cyanoacrylate 'embolisation' have been changed to cyanoacrylate 'adhesive'.

Descriptor: Varicose veins, abolition of venous reflux by occlusion of a primary or recurrent great and small saphenous vein (and major tributaries of saphenous veins as necessary) in one leg of a patient, using a radiofrequency catheter introduced by an endovenous catheter, if all of the following apply:

(a) it is documented by duplex ultrasound that the great and small saphenous veins demonstrate reflux of 0.5 seconds or longer;

(b) the patient has significant signs or symptoms (including one or more of the following signs or symptoms) attributable to venous reflux:

(i) ache;

(ii) pain;

(iii) tightness;



- (iv) skin irritation;
- (v) heaviness;
- (vi) muscle cramps;
- (vii) limb swelling;
- (viii) discolouration;
- (ix) discomfort;
- (x) any other signs or symptoms attributable to venous dysfunction;

(c) the service does not include endovenous laser therapy or cyanoacrylate adhesive;

(d) the service is not associated with a service (on the same leg) to which any of the following items apply:

- (i) 32500 to 32507;
- (ii) 35200;
- (iii) 59970 to 60078;
- (iv) 60500 to 60509;
- (v) 61109

The service includes all preparation and immediate clinical aftercare (including excision or injection of either tributaries or incompetent perforating veins, or both)

(Anaes.)

Billing requirement: Not claimable with items 32500, 32504, 32507, 35200, 59970, 60000, 60003, 60006, 60009, 60012, 60015, 60018, 60021, 60024, 60027, 60030, 60033, 60036, 60039, 60042, 60045, 60048, 60051, 60054, 60057, 60060, 60063, 60066, 60069, 60072, 60075, 60078, 60500, 60503, 60506, 60509, and 61109 on the same leg.

The service must not include endovenous laser therapy or cyanoacrylate adhesive.

MBS fee: \$825.45 (no change)

Benefit: 75% = \$619.10 85% = \$740.75

Private Health Insurance:

Clinical Category: Heart and Vascular System

Procedure Type: Type C



Amended item 32528 –VARICOSE VEINS, abolition of venous reflux by occlusion of a primary or recurrent great OR small saphenous vein of one leg, using cyanoacrylate adhesive

Overview: This item has been amended to clarify the clinical significance of signs and symptoms attributable to venous dysfunction and to identify which items are not appropriate to claim with this procedure. References to cyanoacrylate 'embolisation' have been changed to cyanoacrylate 'adhesive'.

Descriptor: Varicose veins, abolition of venous reflux by occlusion of a primary or recurrent great or small saphenous vein (and major tributaries of saphenous veins as necessary) in one leg of a patient, using cyanoacrylate adhesive, if all of the following apply:

(a) it is documented by duplex ultrasound that the great or small saphenous vein (whichever is to be treated) demonstrates reflux of 0.5 seconds or longer;

(b) the patient has significant signs or symptoms (including one or more of the following signs or symptoms) attributable to venous reflux:

- (i) ache;
- (ii) pain;
- (iii) tightness;
- (iv) skin irritation;
- (v) heaviness;
- (vi) muscle cramps;
- (vii) limb swelling;
- (viii) discolouration;
- (ix) discomfort;
- (x) any other signs or symptoms attributable to venous dysfunction;

(c) the service does not include radiofrequency diathermy, radiofrequency ablation or endovenous laser therapy;

(d) the service is not associated with a service (on the same leg) to which any of the following items apply:

- (i) 32500 to 32507;
- (ii) 35200;
- (iii) 59970 to 60078;
- (iv) 60500 to 60509;



(v) 61109

The service includes all preparation and immediate clinical aftercare (including excision or injection of either tributaries or incompetent perforating veins, or both)

(Anaes.)

Billing requirement: Not claimable with items 32500, 32504, 32507, 35200, 59970, 60000, 60003, 60006, 60009, 60012, 60015, 60018, 60021, 60024, 60027, 60030, 60033, 60036, 60039, 60042, 60045, 60048, 60051, 60054, 60057, 60060, 60063, 60066, 60069, 60072, 60075, 60078, 60500, 60503, 60506, 60509, or 61109 on the same leg.

The service must not include radiofrequency diathermy, radiofrequency ablation or endovenous laser therapy.

MBS fee: \$555.25 (no change)

Benefit: 75% = \$416.45 85% = \$472.00

Private Health Insurance:

Clinical Category: Heart and Vascular System

Procedure Type: Type C

Amended item 32529 –VARICOSE VEINS, abolition of venous reflux by occlusion of a primary or recurrent great AND small saphenous vein of one leg using cyanoacrylate adhesive

Overview: This item has been amended to clarify the clinical significance of signs and symptoms attributable to venous dysfunction and to identify which items are not appropriate to claim with this procedure. References to cyanoacrylate 'embolisation' have been changed to cyanoacrylate 'adhesive'.

Descriptor: Varicose veins, abolition of venous reflux by occlusion of a primary or recurrent great and small saphenous vein (and major tributaries of saphenous veins as necessary) in one leg of a patient, using cyanoacrylate adhesive, if all of the following apply:

(a) it is documented by duplex ultrasound that the great and small saphenous veins demonstrate reflux of 0.5 seconds or longer;

(b) the patient has significant signs or symptoms (including one or more of the following signs or symptoms) attributable to venous reflux:

- (i) ache;
- (ii) pain;
- (iii) tightness;
- (iv) skin irritation;



- (v) heaviness;
- (vi) muscle cramps;
- (vii) limb swelling;
- (viii) discolouration;
- (ix) discomfort;
- (x) any other signs or symptoms attributable to venous dysfunction;

(c) the service does not include radiofrequency diathermy, radiofrequency ablation or endovenous laser therapy;

(d) the service is not associated with a service (on the same leg) to which any of the following items apply:

- (i) 32500 to 32507;
- (ii) 35200;
- (iii) 59970 to 60078;
- (iv) 60500 to 60509;
- (v) 61109

The service includes all preparation and immediate clinical aftercare (including excision or injection of either tributaries or incompetent perforating veins, or both)

(Anaes.)

Billing requirement: Not claimable with items 32500, 32504, 32507, 35200, 59970, 60000, 60003, 60006, 60009, 60012, 60015, 60018, 60021, 60024, 60027, 60030, 60033, 60036, 60039, 60042, 60045, 60048, 60051, 60054, 60057, 60060, 60063, 60066, 60069, 60072, 60075, 60078, 60500, 60503, 60506, 60509, or 61109 on the same leg.

The service must not include radiofrequency diathermy, radiofrequency ablation or endovenous laser therapy.

MBS fee: \$825.45 (no change)

Benefit: 75% = \$619.10 85% = \$740.75

Private Health Insurance:

Clinical Category: Heart and Vascular System

Procedure Type: Type C



Where can I find more information?

The full item descriptor(s) and information on other changes to the MBS will be available on 1 November 2021 on the MBS Online website at [MBS Online](#). You can also subscribe to future MBS updates by visiting [MBS Online](#) and clicking 'Subscribe'.

For questions relating to implementation, or to the interpretation of the changes to varicose vein MBS items *prior* to 1 November 2021, please email vascularservices@health.gov.au.

The Department of Health provides an email advice service for providers seeking advice on interpretation of the MBS items and rules and the Health Insurance Act and associated regulations. For questions after implementation on 1 November 2021 and queries relating exclusively to interpretation of the Schedule, please email askMBS@health.gov.au.

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 Services Australia on the Provider Enquiry Line – 13 21 50. Subscribe to '[News for Health Professionals](#)' on the Services Australia website to receive regular news highlights.

The data file for software vendors is expected to become available by late September 2021 and can be accessed via the MBS Online website under the [Downloads](#) page.

To view previous item descriptors and deleted items, visit MBS Online at www.mbsonline.gov.au, navigate to 'Downloads' and then select the relevant time period at the bottom of the page. The old items can then be viewed by downloading the MBS files published in the month before implementation of the changes.

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.