



Quick Reference Guide:

New item for remote programming of a neurostimulator for deep brain stimulation

Date of change: 1 November 2022

New item: 40863

Revised structure

- From 1 November 2022, one new Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) item (40863) will be introduced for remote programming of a neurostimulator for deep brain stimulation (DBS) for Parkinson's disease, essential tremor and dystonia.
- This new item offers the same service as MBS item 40862 but will allow the service to be performed remotely. The new remote service for unilateral DBS is limited to being claimed eight times in 12 months.
- This change is relevant to neurologists or neurosurgeons (or highly specialised nurses under the supervision of a neurologist or neurosurgeon).
- The final recommendation to list this service by the Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC) occurred in September 2021 and was approved for funding on the MBS in the 2022-23 Budget. Further details about [MSAC applications](#) can be found under MSAC Applications on the [MSAC website](#).

Patient impacts

- These changes reflect modern clinical practice and will enable patients to receive a Medicare rebate for the new remote DBS service (40863) when clinically appropriate.
- This new item will provide patients with greater access by removing the need for patients to attend (in rooms) for reprogramming, when deemed clinically appropriate. It will also allow for this treatment modality to be more readily available to patients in regional, rural, and remote locations.
- Patients with Parkinson's disease whose response to medical therapy is not sustained and is accompanied by unacceptable motor fluctuations and, those with essential tremor and dystonia whose symptoms cause severe disability would receive the service.

Restrictions or requirements

- Providers will need to familiarise themselves with this new MBS item 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.
 - It is not permissible to co-claim a professional attendance item (including telehealth items in a telehealth eligible area) with item 40863 when providing remote electronic analysis and programming of the neurostimulator. Except when, in addition the provider evaluates the patient's health-related issue or issues, using certain health screening services if applicable; formulates a management plan in relation to one or more health-related issues for the patient; provides advice to the patient and/or relatives (if authorised by the patient); provides appropriate preventive health care; and records the clinical detail of the service(s) provided to the patient.
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New item 40863 – Deep brain stimulation (unilateral), remote electronic analysis and programming of neurostimulator pulse generator

Overview: This item introduces a new service for remote programming of a neurostimulator for deep brain stimulation (DBS) for Parkinson's disease, essential tremor and dystonia.

Service/Descriptor:

Deep brain stimulation (unilateral), remote electronic analysis and programming of neurostimulator pulse generator for the treatment of:

- (a) Parkinson's disease, if the patient's response to medical therapy is not sustained and is accompanied by unacceptable motor fluctuations; or
- (b) essential tremor or dystonia, if the patient's symptoms cause severe disability

Applicable not more than 8 times in any 12-month period

MBS fee: \$200.55

Benefit: 75% = \$150.41 85% = \$170.47

Private Health Insurance Classifications:

Clinical Category: Brain and Nervous System

Procedure Type: Type C

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.

New item descriptor (to take effect 1 November 2022)

Item	Descriptor
40863	<p>Deep brain stimulation (unilateral), remote electronic analysis and programming of neurostimulator pulse generator for the treatment of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Parkinson's disease, if the patient's response to medical therapy is not sustained and is accompanied by unacceptable motor fluctuations; or(b) essential tremor or dystonia, if the patient's symptoms cause severe disability <p>Applicable not more than 8 times in any 12-month period</p>