



Nuclear medicine item 61485 - One-off schedule fee increase

Last updated: 16 October 2023

- Subject to the passage of legislation, from 1 November 2023, a one-off fee increase for Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) item 61485 (adrenal study, with single photon emission tomography) will occur to more appropriately cover the cost of the radiopharmaceutical used in delivering the service and ensure ongoing patient access to important nuclear medicine services.
- These changes affect all health professionals who request, deliver, and claim therapeutic nuclear medicine services under the MBS as well as consumers who receive the service, private health insurers and hospitals.

What are the changes?

Subject to the passage of legislation, an increase to the schedule fee for MBS item 61485 from \$999.20 to \$3,364.00, effective 1 November 2023. The new fee will more appropriately cover the cost of the radiopharmaceutical administered as part of the service.

Why are the changes being made?

The changes are being made to ensure that therapeutic nuclear services provided under Medicare are up to date and support ongoing patient access.

The increase to the schedule fee for item 61485 was recommended by the MBS Review Taskforce. A full copy of the Final Report on the MBS items for Nuclear Medicine, 2018, can be found at [Taskforce final report – MBS items for Nuclear Medicine](#) on the Department of Health and Aged Care website.

What does this mean for providers of nuclear medicine services?

The one-off schedule fee increase will better support providers to cover the cost of the radiopharmaceutical used to deliver this service.

How will this change affect patients?

This change will provide greater support by providing an increased rebate for patients to an important therapeutic nuclear medicine service, leading to improved patient health outcomes by ensuring that this service remains affordable.

Who was consulted on the changes?

Following the MBS Review Taskforce recommendations, ongoing consultation occurred with several peak bodies, including:

- Australasian Association of Nuclear Medicine Specialists (AANMS)
- Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists (RANZCR)
- Australian and New Zealand Society of Nuclear Medicine (ANZSNM)
- Rural Alliance in Nuclear Scintigraphy (RAINS)

Where can I find more information?

The full item descriptor(s) and information on other changes to the MBS can be found on the MBS Online website at www.mbsonline.gov.au. 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, you should email askMBS@health.gov.au.

Private health insurance information on the product tier arrangements is available at www.privatehealth.gov.au. Detailed information on the MBS item listing within clinical categories is available on the [Department's website](#). Private health insurance minimum accommodation benefits information, including MBS item accommodation classification, is available in the latest version of the *Private Health Insurance (Benefit Requirements) Rules 2011* found on the [Federal Register of Legislation](#). If you have a query in relation to private health insurance, you should email PHI@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.

Amended item descriptors (to take effect 1 November 2023)

Category 5 – Diagnostic Imaging Services

Group I4 – Nuclear Medicine Imaging

Subgroup 1 – Nuclear medicine – non PET

61485

Adrenal study, with single photon emission tomography (R)

Fee: \$3,364.00

Private Health Insurance Classification:

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

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