



New Medical Benefits Schedule (MBS) item for diagnosis of hypertension through Ambulatory blood pressure monitoring

Last updated: 17 September 2021

- From 1 November 2021, the Australian Government will introduce a new MBS item for diagnosis of hypertension through Ambulatory blood pressure monitoring for people with suspected hypertension (high blood pressure).
- The purpose of the service is to monitor a patient's blood pressure continuously over 24 hours via a wearable device to diagnose if they are hypertensive or not. The service includes the fitting of the device, analysis of the data, generation of a report and development of a treatment plan and all consultations associated with the service.
- Ambulatory blood pressure monitoring is the best available test for diagnosing hypertension and is more effective than in clinic blood pressure monitoring.

What are the changes?

From 1 November 2021, a new item for diagnosing high blood pressure will be introduced to the MBS for eligible patients:

- **Item 11607** – Continuous ambulatory blood pressure recording for 24 hours or more for a patient suspected of hypertension, who has not commenced anti-hypertensive therapy, including the development of a report and treatment plan.

The changes are the outcome of Government agreement to recommendations from the independent Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC). MSAC appraises medical services, health technologies and health programs for public funding through an assessment of their comparative safety, clinical effectiveness, cost effectiveness and total cost, using the best available evidence.

The listing of this service was recommended by the Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC) in April 2020. Further details about MSAC applications can be found under [MSAC Applications](#) on the MSAC website (www.msac.gov.au).

What does this mean for providers?

These changes support contemporary best practice and allow all medical practitioners access to an MBS funded item to monitor patient's blood pressure for 24 hours to correctly diagnose hypertension.



How will these changes affect patients?

Patients with suspected hypertension will now have access to an MBS rebate for a more accurate way of measuring blood pressure than in a medical clinic. Ambulatory blood pressure monitoring gives a range of readings over 24 hours, while people are doing different activities and also allows for situations where a person is nervous about having their blood pressure measured, resulting in a misleading high blood pressure result.

Who was consulted on the changes?

Consultation was undertaken with key stakeholders, clinical experts and providers, and consumer health representatives as part of the MSAC process.

How will the changes be monitored and reviewed?

This new item will be subject to MBS compliance processes and activities, including audits, which may require a provider to submit evidence about the services claimed.

The Department of Health will monitor the use of the new MBS item by eligible providers and review after one year. Use of the items that do not seem to be in accordance with the relevant Medicare guidelines will be actioned appropriately.

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 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. If you have a query relating exclusively to interpretation of the Schedule, you should 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 is expected to become available on [date] and can be accessed via the MBS Online website under 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.