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- Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) items provide benefits for surgical terminations and consultations for the management of medical termination.
- MBS benefits are payable for clinically relevant services but services must also comply with state and territory legislation in the state or territory in which the service is provided.
- There are three MBS items which could be used to provide rebates for the surgical termination of pregnancy. Items 16530 and 16531 would mainly be claimed for the management of patients who have had a spontaneous abortion or miscarriage. Item 35643 may be claimed for an induced abortion

s22(1)(a)(ii)

but may also be used to evacuate the products of conception following miscarriage or after foetal death in utero.

s22(1)(a)(ii)

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- The provision of this service also complies with state and territory regulations.
- The Tabbot Foundation, another provider of low-cost pregnancy termination by phone, ceased operations in March 2019, citing high costs.

MBS service volumes for items which could be used for Surgical Termination

Source: Internal Department of Health

Accessed: 18/07/2019

MBS Item 35643

Item start date: 1 December

1991

Evacuation of the contents of the gravid uterus by curettage or suction curettage other than a service to which item 35640 applies, including procedures to which item 35626, 35627 or 35630 applies, if performed. (Anaes.)

Fee: \$221.50 Benefit: 75% = \$166.15 85% = \$188.30

	Usage by State and Territory					Total
	NSW/ACT	VIC/TAS	QLD	SA/NT	WA	
2015	21,789	14,072	10,614	770	6,744	53,989
2016	20,077	12,684	10,403	705	5,131	49,000
2017	19,344	11,910	9,382	639	4,788	46,063
2018	18,061	11,147	8,609	544	4,268	42,629
2019 Jan - June	8,696	4,990	4,243	276	2,053	20,258
Total	87,967	54,803	43,251	2,934	22,984	211,939

	Benefits by State and Territory					Total
	NSW/ACT	VIC/TAS	QLD	SA/NT	WA	
2015	\$3,892,607	\$2,319,449	\$1,759,782	\$127,711	\$1,182,965	\$9,282,513
2016	\$3,605,572	\$2,099,832	\$1,719,380	\$116,818	\$908,375	\$8,449,977
2017	\$3,461,676	\$1,964,530	\$1,550,198	\$106,345	\$845,179	\$7,927,928
2018	\$3,226,056	\$1,828,356	\$1,420,578	\$89,189	\$751,564	\$7,315,744
2019 Jan - June	\$1,550,685	\$817,996	\$699,002	\$45,353	\$361,494	\$3,474,530

MBS Item 16530

Item start date: 1 November 2017

Management of pregnancy loss, from 14 weeks to 15 weeks and 6 days gestation, other than a service to which item 16531, 35640 or 35643 applies. (Anaes.)

Fee: \$390.50 Benefit: 75% = \$292.90 85% = \$331.95

	1 June 2018 – 30 June 2019								Total Services
	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	ACT	NT	
Service	190	143	140	9	68	6	13	0	569
Benefits	\$56,268	\$41,265	\$40,356	\$2,595	\$19,604	\$1,730	\$3,755	\$6	\$165,579

MBS Item 16531**Item start date: 1 November 2017**

Management of pregnancy loss, from 16 weeks to 22 weeks and 6 days gestation, other than a service to which item 16530, 35640 or 35643 applies. (Anaes.)

Fee: \$781.00 Benefit: 75% = \$585.75

	1 June 2018 – 30 June 2019								Total Services
	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	ACT	NT	
Service	194	159	173	27	56	15	11	4	639
Benefits	\$111,839	\$91,672	\$99,719	\$15,567	\$32,287	\$8,648	\$6,353	\$2,331	\$368,416

s22(1)(a)(ii)

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