Medicare Benefits Schedule Review Taskforce

Taskforce Findings
Pathology Clinical Committee
Blood Products Working Group Report

This document outlines the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) Taskforce's recommendations in response to the Blood Products Working Group Report.

The Taskforce considered the recommendations from the Blood Products Working Group and feedback from the public consultation.

The Taskforce endorsed all recommendations from the Blood Products Working Group and submitted them to the Minister for Health for Government consideration.

Number of items reviewed	8
Number of recommendations made	2

The recommendations are intended to encourage best practice, improve patient care and safety, and ensure that MBS services provide value for the patient and the healthcare system through deleting obsolete or low clinical value items; consolidating or splitting items to address potential misuse; modernising item descriptors to reflect best practice; and providing clinical guidance for appropriate item use through explanatory notes.

List of Taskforce recommendations

Recommendation 1 – Collection and transfusion of blood products

The Taskforce recommended changes to promote evidence based practice and prevent the inappropriate us of two items. The revised items will help prevent patients from receiving unnecessary or non-evidence based services which may pose a risk to their health and safety.

The Taskforce recommends deleting one item which is no longer clinically relevant.

Recommendation 2 – Stem cell transplantations services

The Taskforce recommends amending the MBS item descriptor for stem cell transplantation to align the service with contemporary best practice. The item requires the clinical eligibility for the treatment to be based on international clinical guidelines. These guidelines are set out in an explanatory note so that the MBS item does not become outdated.

The Taskforce has also recommended that the patient's treatment be supervised by an experienced multi-disciplinary team.