



GUARANTEEING MEDICARE – MEDICARE BENEFITS SCHEDULE REVIEW – COLORECTAL SURGERY SERVICES

The Australian Government is making changes to Medicare-funded colorectal surgery services, to support best practice treatment and improve patient safety. These changes follow recommendations from the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) Review Taskforce.

What are the changes?

From 1 July 2022, there will be a number of changes to the MBS items to better align colorectal surgery services with contemporary and evidence based treatment.

These changes include the deletion, combination and amendment of colorectal surgery MBS items. Specifically, deleting outdated items, combining items that are provided together into a single item, and updating the descriptors of items to better describe modern techniques.

Why are these changes being made?

These changes were recommended by the independent MBS Review Taskforce, following a comprehensive review of the MBS items by clinicians, health system experts and consumers.

The changes seek to simplify and streamline MBS items relating to colorectal surgery and ensure they accurately reflect current best practice and modern techniques for the surgical management of conditions affecting the colon and rectum.

What does this mean for patients?

The changes are expected to benefit patients as they address concerns regarding patient safety and quality of care, and because the changes seek to simplify the MBS and make it easier to use and understand the items.

As the changes promote higher value medical care, patients may benefit through a reduction of unnecessary services and related out-of-pocket expenses.

What does this mean for providers?

The impacts on providers are expected to be minimal. The changes to items are to align with best clinical practice.

The Department will work closely with stakeholders when developing the changes to the colorectal surgery MBS items. Providers will receive further information about the changes as implementation proceeds.

Further detail will be available on
www.mbsonline.gov.au