



GUARANTEEING MEDICARE – MEDICARE BENEFITS SCHEDULE REVIEW – PLASTIC AND RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY SERVICES

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

What are the changes?

From 1 November 2022, there will be a number of changes to MBS items to better align plastic and reconstructive surgery related services with contemporary and evidence based treatment.

These changes will include:

- restructuring general and skin items for consistency throughout the MBS
- restructuring burns items to reflect contemporary clinical practice
- reorganising breast cancer and reconstruction items to reflect modern breast cancer surgery, including a range of new items for bilateral breast reconstruction
- reorganising cranio-maxillofacial/oral and maxillofacial items
- updating terminology of the paediatric plastic surgery items to be consistent with international classifications and contemporary understanding in the field
- safeguarding Medicare against inappropriate use of services for cosmetic purposes, and
- consolidating a range of existing items to simplify item claiming

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 revised item descriptors better reflect the procedures being performed by practitioners and

contemporary best-practice. These changes will also ensure that claims are consistent and appropriate.

What does this mean for patients?

Patients will benefit as plastic and reconstructive surgery services will be aligned to contemporary care. Providers will be supported to provide best practice treatment, tailored to individual patient needs, which will lead to better health outcomes for patients.

What does this mean for providers?

Providers will benefit as Medicare funding will better align with contemporary clinical practice for plastic and reconstructive surgery services. The consolidation of the items will streamline billing practices and support more uniform billing across patients.

The Department will work closely with peak bodies when implementing the changes to plastic and reconstructive surgery MBS items. Providers will receive further information about the changes as implementation proceeds.

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