
Medicare Benefits Schedule Review

Taskforce

Diagnostic Imaging Clinical Committee Report – Pulmonary Embolism and Deep Vein Thrombosis

Taskforce Findings

This document outlines the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) Taskforce’s recommendations in response to Diagnostic Imaging Clinical Committee Report – Pulmonary Embolism and Deep Vein Thrombosis.

The Taskforce considered the recommendations from the Diagnostic Imaging Clinical Committee and feedback from public consultation.

The Taskforce endorsed the recommendations from the Diagnostic Imaging Clinical Committee, with one minor amendment to one recommendation, and submitted them to the Minister for Health for Government consideration.

Number of items reviewed	9
Number of recommendations made	4

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

List of Taskforce recommendations

Items 55221 and 55244 – MBS explanatory notes for imaging for DVT

MBS explanatory notes should be added to items used for DVT imaging (55221 and 55244) advising requestors to read and consider the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists (RANZCR) 2015 Choosing Wisely Recommendations, or such clinical RANZCR Choosing Wisely recommendations as succeed it.

Co-claiming duplex scanning for DVT and chronic venous disease

In the case of a same provider undertaking venous ultrasound for the same patient on the same day that:

- It is inappropriate to claim ultrasound items for both acute DVT and chronic venous disease on the same leg in the same patient on the same day
- The multiple services rules for diagnostic ultrasound apply and should be adhered to

Redundant items for DVT imaging

A mechanism is identified to reduce the number of NK (services performed on old equipment), which duplicate regular items and lengthen the Diagnostic Imaging Services Table, as a class solution.

Items 57351, 57356, 61328, 61340 AND 61348 – MBS explanatory notes for imaging for PE

MBS explanatory notes should be added to items used for PE imaging (57351, 57356, 61328, 61340 and 61348) advising requestors to read and consider the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists (RANZCR) 2015 Choosing Wisely Recommendations, or such clinical RANZCR Choosing Wisely recommendations as succeed it.