



Australian Government
Department of Health

Ref No. MC16-019290

Dr Brendan Adler
Chief Executive Officer
Envision Medical Imaging
PO Box 2004
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Dear Dr Adler

Thank you for your correspondence of 20 April 2016 to the Minister for Health, Minister for Aged Care and Minister for Sport, the Hon Sussan Ley MP regarding Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Medicare eligibility for Envision Medical Imaging, Wembley. Due to the announcement of the federal election and the Australian Government entering caretaker mode, I am responding on behalf of the Minister.

I am aware that Envision Medical Imaging currently has partial MRI Medicare eligibility, which was granted under the *MRI Regional and Metropolitan Expansion initiatives*. I am aware your colleagues, Dr Ronny Low and Dr Bernard Hoong have previously raised this matter with the Government and, subsequently, received responses.

MRI is an expensive and sophisticated technology and the Australian Government needs to ensure that public funding is provided in a fair and financially responsible manner. Since its introduction on the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) in the late 1990s, MRI has been carefully managed through provider, requestor and item level restrictions. These controls help to support the provision of high quality, safe and cost effective health care for all Australians.

Should an opportunity arise to apply for full MRI Medicare eligibility, the Department will notify relevant radiology industry groups.

Yours sincerely

Marye Smith
Primary Care and Diagnostics Branch
Medical Benefits Division

27 May 2016