



Medicare Benefits Schedule for PET/CT

Positron Emission Tomography / Computed Tomography MBS Indications

The Australian Government Medicare Benefit Schedule rebateable indications for PET/CT are listed below.

RESPIRATORY

- Solitary pulmonary nodule - evaluation, where FNA has failed or is deemed unsuitable.
- Non-small cell lung cancer - staging, where curative surgery or radiotherapy is planned.

GASTROINTESTINAL

- Colorectal carcinoma - evaluation of suspected residual, metastatic or recurrent disease.

GENITOURINARY

- Ovarian carcinoma - evaluation of suspected residual, metastatic or recurrent disease.

SKIN

- Malignant Melanoma - evaluation of suspected metastatic or recurrent disease.

BRAIN/NEUROLOGICAL

- Refractory Epilepsy - which is being evaluated for surgery. inconclusive

NON-MBS Indications

The following indications have clinical effectiveness proven or potentially of value in individual cases, but limited Australian data to prove cost effectiveness for Medicare.

GENERAL ONCOLOGIC INDICATIONS

- Biopsy guidance - eg. Large or heterogeneous masses/failed FNA*
- Chemotherapeutic response*
- Radiotherapy response*
- Drug trials
- Palliative care - problem solving, management of patient with intractable pain

*Selected cases according to known histology

RESPIRATORY

- Small cell lung carcinoma - primary staging and follow-up
- Restaging non small cell Lung cancer
- Assessment of multiple pulmonary nodules
- Assessment of granulomatous disease
- Mesothelioma / Pleural plaque

GASTROINTESTINAL

- Colorectal carcinoma - primary staging
- Residual Colorectal ca with structural abnormality on imaging (in asymptomatic patient)
- Restaging Colorectal (if does not meet MBS indications)
- Polyposis assessment
- Oesophageal ca - primary staging
- Restaging Oesophageal and Gastric carcinoma
- Gastric ca - primary staging
- Pancreatic carcinoma (selected cases)
- Hepatoma / Cholangiocarcinoma (selected cases)
- Inflammatory bowel disease

GENITOURINARY

- Prostate carcinoma - problem solving e.g young patients, soft tissue disease, high grade disease, response to chemotherapy/radiotherapy
- Renal cell carcinoma - assessment of indeterminate masses; local recurrence; metastatic disease
- Testicular cancer - primary staging / restaging
- Bladder carcinoma - staging / re-staging
- Restaging Cervical carcinoma
- Endometrial carcinoma
- Ovarian masses - characterisation (selected cases)
- Uterine Cervix ca - primary staging

BREAST CARCINOMA

- Response to pre-operative chemoradiotherapy
- Chest wall recurrence,
- Brachial plexopathy,
- Assessment of response to chemotherapy/radiotherapy
- Assessment of extent of metastatic disease (selected cases)

SKIN

- Malignant Melanoma (with negative sentinel lymph node biopsy and/or intermediate/deep thickness) - primary staging
- Squamous cell ca (invasive) - staging

HAEMATOLOGICAL

- Myeloma / Plasmacytoma
- Lymphoma - primary staging HR or NHL
- Residual mass evaluation in treated Lymphoma
- Recurrent Lymphoma - re-staging

HEAD AND NECK

- Head and neck ca - primary staging
- Residual or recurrent head and neck restaging
- Staging metastatic Squamous cell ca in cervical nodes from unknown primary

SARCOMA

- Sarcoma (bone or soft tissue) - guide biopsy
- Sarcoma (bone or soft tissue) - primary staging
- Recurrent Sarcoma - re-staging

BRAIN/NEUROLOGICAL

- Brain tumour - assess grade for treatment planning or guide biopsy
- Post-treatment Glioma assessment

CARDIAC

- Myocardial viability prior to revascularisation

MISCELLANEOUS MALIGNANCIES

- Ca of unknown primary (except SCC with cervical LN - medicare rebate)
- Thyroid ca - staging / restaging
- Adrenal tumour/mass characterisation
- Brain (non-glioma)
- Paediatric malignancies

OTHER

- Infection imaging - selected cases
- Vasculitis
- Granulomatous disease
- Arthropathy assessment
- Neurology - Dementia assessment, Epilepsy cases that are not covered by medicare rebate
- Chronic pain of uncertain aetiology ?malignant (also see palliative care above)
- Pre-transplant assessment
- Previous PET scan (prior to July 2002 at Austin or RPA)

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