

NEW MEDICARE BENEFITS SCHEDULE (MBS) ITEMS FOR CONTRAST-ENHANCED MRI OF THE LIVER

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WHAT ARE THE NEW SERVICES?

From 1 May 2019, Medicare rebates will be available for two new items covering contrast enhanced MRI liver scans with specific clinical criteria for:

- ▶ patients with colorectal carcinoma with known, suspected or possible liver metastases for the purpose of characterisation or intervention planning (item 63545);
- ▶ patients with known or suspected hepatocellular carcinoma for the purposes of diagnosis or staging (item 63546); and
- ▶ the use of a hepatobiliary specific contrast agent is also covered by a Medicare rebate (item 63496) to be used in conjunction with 63545 and 63546.

WHO CAN REQUEST THESE ITEMS?

Specialists and consultant physicians are eligible to request these items. General practitioners are not eligible to request these items.

WHAT ARE THE PATIENT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS?

These items are for patients with specified indications and these indications must be listed on the request form.

MBS item 63545 is for:

A patient with known colorectal carcinoma with known, suspected or possible liver metastasis, for the purpose of characterisation or intervention planning, where:

- ▶ the patient has had a mass lesion detected in the liver on previous CT scanning or ultrasound.

MBS items 63546 is for:

A patient with known or suspected hepatocellular carcinoma for the purposes of diagnosis or staging where:

- ▶ the patient has pre-existing chronic liver disease, confirmed by a specialist; and
- ▶ has an identified hepatic lesion over 10mm in diameter; and
- ▶ has been assessed as having a Child-Pugh class A or B liver function.

ARE THERE ANY RESTRICTIONS ON THE NUMBER OF SERVICES?

Medicare benefits for MBS items 63545 and 63546 are payable on only one occasion for a patient in any twelve month period.