

NEW MEDICARE BENEFITS SCHEDULE (MBS) ITEMS FOR OBSTETRIC MRI OF PATIENTS AT \geq 18 WEEKS GESTATION WITH SUSPECTED FETAL CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM ABNORMALITY



WHAT ARE THE NEW SERVICES?

From 1 May 2019, Medicare rebates will be available for a new item covering obstetric MRI imaging for patients at \geq 18 weeks gestation in whom a fetal central nervous system abnormality is suspected and diagnosis is indeterminate (MBS items 63454).

The obstetric MRI service will not be available as a stand-alone screening test for fetal abnormalities, but should only be offered after a tertiary ultrasound has not provided or cannot provide sufficient or complete diagnostic information.

Specialist obstetricians who provide the pre-test tertiary ultrasound must have certification in maternal fetal medicine or obstetrical and gynaecological ultrasound.

The new service is expected to inform better clinical decision making, compared to using tertiary ultrasound for central nervous system anomalies.

WHO CAN REQUEST THESE ITEMS?

These items can be requested by specialist obstetricians only. General practitioners and other types of specialists and consultant physicians are not eligible to request these items.

WHAT ARE THE PATIENT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS?

The obstetric MRI scans are for patients at \geq 18 weeks' gestation in whom a fetal central nervous system abnormality is suspected and where diagnosis via tertiary ultrasound is indeterminate.

ARE THERE ANY RESTRICTIONS ON THE NUMBER OF SERVICES?

There are no restrictions on the number of services that can be provided to a patient. Multiple examinations can be undertaken where clinically necessary, although this is expected to apply only in a limited number of cases.

