

MBS

Cardiac Imaging Services for General Practice

From 1 August 2020 changes were made to the MBS items for cardiac imaging services to better clarify the clinical requirements and circumstances where this testing and repeat testing is appropriate. These changes apply to electrocardiogram (ECG), echocardiogram, ambulatory ECG, ECG stress testing, myocardial perfusion studies and stress echocardiogram.

Further clarification has also been provided regarding the definition of 'clinical notes' and a 'formal report' for the purpose of these items:

- **clinical notes** means a written report commenting on the significance of the trace findings and their relationship to clinical decision making for the patient in their clinical context. This interpretation does not include interpretation based solely on measurements or diagnoses automatically generated from the trace.
- **formal report** means a written report that entails interpretation of the trace, (including indicators for the investigation) commenting on the significance of the trace findings and their relationship to clinical decision making for the patient in their clinical context, and may include a copy of the trace and any measurements taken or automatically generated.

What has changed for General Practice?

Changes have been made to both the item numbers that can be claimed by General Practice and to the services that General Practitioners can request.

Electrocardiographs (ECG) for General Practitioners

| Old Item | New item | Description | Claiming Guide | Fee* |
|-----------------|----------|--|---|---------|
| 11700, 11702 | 11707 | Tracing only, if the trace: a) is required to inform clinical decision making; and b) is reviewed in a clinically appropriate timeframe to identify potentially serious or life-threatening abnormalities; and c) does not need to be fully interpreted or reported on. | Claimable up to twice per day for different traces on the same patient. | \$19.00 |

GPs will be able to request – but not access – the following items that will need to be accompanied by a referral for a specialist or consultant physician:

| Old Item | New item | Description |
|----------|----------|---|
| 11700 | 11704 | Tracing and Report by a specialist or consultant physician |
| 11701 | 11705 | Report only, tracing has been sent to a specialist or consultant physician |
| New item | 11714 | Trace and a Clinical Note, by a specialist or consultant physician in conjunction with consultation |

Other Changes to note for General Practitioners

| Ambulatory Electrocardiograph (AECG) | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------|---|----------------------------|
| Old Item | New item | Description | Claiming Guide |
| 11710 | 11717 | Ambulatory ECG monitoring, patient activated 7 to 30 days. Investigation of recurrent episodes of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> unexplained syncope; or palpitation; or other symptoms where a cardiac rhythm disturbance is suspected and where episodes are infrequent has occurred. | Once in any 3 month period |
| 11711 | 11723 | Ambulatory ECG monitoring, patient activated up to 7 days. Investigation of recurrent episodes of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> unexplained syncope; or palpitation; or other symptoms where a cardiac rhythm disturbance is suspected and where episodes are infrequent has occurred. | Once in any 3 month period |
| 11722 | 11731 | Implanted ECG loop recording. Investigation for a patient with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> cryptogenic stroke; or recurrent unexplained syncope. | Once in a 4 week period |

| Electrocardiograph (ECG) Stress Testing | | | |
|---|----------|--|---|
| For a patient who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> has symptoms consistent with cardiac ischemia; or has other cardiac disease which may be exacerbated by exercise; or has a first degree relatives with suspected heritable arrhythmia. | | | |
| Old Item | New item | Description | Claiming Guide |
| 11712 | 11729 | Multi-channel ECG monitoring and recording during exercise for persons over 17 years | Once in a 2 year period (including MPS and stress echo) |
| 11712 | 11730 | Multi-channel ECG monitoring and recording during exercise for persons under 17 years | N/A |

| Plain echocardiographs (echo) | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------|---|---|
| Old Item | New item | Description | Claiming Guide |
| 55113 55114 55115 | 55126 | Initial real time echo examination Suspected heart condition | Cannot be claimed within 24 months if a service associated under items 55127, 55128, 55129, 55132, 55133, 55134 and 55137 is provided |
| 55114 | 55128 | Serial real time echo examination valvular (Modified Monash 3-7) | CSANZ guidelines |
| New item | 55133 | Frequent repetition serial real time echo examination for patients with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> isolated pericardial effusion; or pericarditis; or who has commenced medication for non-cardiac purposes that have cardiotoxic side effects, and is the patient has a normal baseline study which requires echocardiograms to comply with the requirements of the PBS. | |

| Stress Echo | | | |
|-------------|----------|--|--|
| Old Item | New item | Description | Claiming Guide |
| 55116 | 55141 | Exercise stress echo focused stress study (initial assessment) | Not more than once in 24 months including 55146 or 55143 |
| 55117 | 55145 | Pharmacological stress echo (initial assessment) | Not more than once in 24 months including 55146 or 55143 |
| New item | 55146 | Pharmacological stress echo following a failed exercise stress echo (pharmacological following a failed exercise stress echo; or a failed treadmill) | Not more than once in 24 months including 55143 or 55146 |

| Myocardial Perfusion Studies (MPS) | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|--|---|
| Old Item | New item | Description | Claiming Guide |
| 61306, 61307 | 61329 | Combined stress and rest MPS for assessment of cardiac ischaemia | Claimable once in a 2 year period. |
| New item | 61357 | Single stress MPS for assessment of cardiac ischemia | Claimable once in a 2 year period |

Further Information

Further information on the full range of changes to Cardiac Imaging Services can be found on the [MBS online Website](#). Including:

- [Factsheet – Cardiac Imaging Service Changes – 1 August 2020](#)
- [Flow diagrams – Cardiac Changes – 1 August 2020](#)
- [Quick Reference Guide – Changes to Cardiac Imaging – ECG and AECG Services](#)

Source: www.mbsonline.gov.au (August 2020)

Please refer to source for full item descriptions,- including eligibility & restrictions.

*85%rebate applies to these item numbers