



Fact Sheet
Version 1/ August 2020

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?

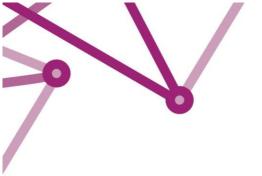
Changes have been made to both the item numbers that can be claimed by General Practice and to the services that General Practitioners can request.

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	





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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: 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: 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: cryptogenic stroke; or recurrent unexplained syncope.	Once in a 4 week period	

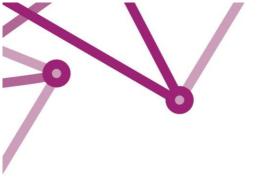
Electrocardiograph (ECG) Stress Testing

For a patient who:

- 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_	Once in a 2 year period
		for persons over 17 years	(including MPS and
			stress echo)
11712	11730	Multi-channel ECG monitoring and recording during exercise	N/A
		for persons under 17 years	

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 patents with: 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.	



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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:

- <u>Factsheet Cardiac Imaging Service Changes 1 August 2020</u>
- 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