



# Medicare Indexation of Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) services and changes to the Bulk Billing Incentive for MRI services

Last updated: 18 March 2022

- In the 2021-22 Budget the Government announced that from 1 July 2022 annual indexation of MRI services will recommence.
- This change will mean that more than 97% of diagnostic imaging services will be indexed from 1 July 2022.
- The Medicare rebate for bulk billed MRI services will be brought in line with other diagnostic imaging services.
- Medicare rebates will be increased for services provided by diagnostic imaging providers, which will reduce out-of-pocket costs for patients using these services.

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## What are the changes?

From 1 July 2022, indexation will recommence for MRI - Group I5 – items 63001 to 63547. This aligns with the ongoing indexation of ultrasound – Group I1, computed tomography – Group I2 and diagnostic radiology – Group I3.

Also, from 1 July 2022 the Bulk Billing Incentive for Medicare rebateable MRI services will be brought in line with other diagnostic imaging services to be payable at 95% of the schedule fee (from 100% of the schedule fee).

## Why are the changes being made?

The indexation of MRI and the change to the Bulk Billing Incentive ensures that Medicare MRI services are funded appropriately and that they align with other imaging modalities.

## What does this mean for providers of diagnostic imaging services?

From 1 July 2022 the Medicare rebate for MRI services will be increased. Providers who bulk bill for MRI services will continue to be eligible for the Bulk Billing Incentive at 95% of the schedule fee. Providers of these services will need to make adjustments to their systems to reflect these changes.

## How will these changes affect patients?

Patients will continue to have access to clinically relevant Medicare rebateable MRI services. An increase in Medicare rebates for MRI services will reduce out-of-pocket costs for patients using these services.



## How will the changes be monitored and reviewed?

Ongoing analysis of MBS data collected through claims processing will be undertaken to monitor the effectiveness of the introduction of indexation and the change to the Bulk Billing Incentive for MRI services.

## Where can I find more information?

The full item descriptor(s) and information on other changes to the MBS can be found on the MBS Online website at [www.mbsonline.gov.au](http://www.mbsonline.gov.au). You can also subscribe to future MBS updates by visiting [MBS Online](#) and clicking 'Subscribe'.

The Department of Health provides an email advice service for providers seeking advice on interpretation of the MBS items and rules and the Health Insurance Act and associated regulations. If you have a query relating exclusively to interpretation of the Schedule, you should email [askMBS@health.gov.au](mailto:askMBS@health.gov.au).

Subscribe to '[News for Health Professionals](#)' on the Services Australia website and you will receive regular news highlights.

If you are seeking advice in relation to Medicare billing, claiming, payments, or obtaining a provider number, please go to the Health Professionals page on the Services Australia website or contact Services Australia on the Provider Enquiry Line – 13 21 50.

The data file for software vendors when available can be accessed via the [Downloads](#) page.

*Please note that the information provided is a general guide only. It is ultimately the responsibility of treating practitioners to use their professional judgment to determine the most clinically appropriate services to provide, and then to ensure that any services billed to Medicare fully meet the eligibility requirements outlined in the legislation.*

*This sheet is current as of the Last updated date shown above, and does not account for MBS changes since that date.*