



New MBS item 45589 for autologous fat grafting for burns scars and craniofacial defects

Last updated: 22 September 2021

- From 1 November 2021, a new Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) item will be created for autologous fat grafting by injection for the treatment of burns scars and craniofacial defects.
- This change is relevant for general surgeons and plastic and reconstructive surgeons.
- Patients will gain access to MBS rebates for this new service.

What are the changes?

From 1 November 2021, a new MBS item 45589 will commence for autologous fat grafting by injection for treatment of burn scars, and treatment of facial defects due to craniofacial abnormalities. The full descriptor for item 45589 is on page 2 of this fact sheet.

Why are the changes being made?

The listing of this service was recommended by the Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC) in July 2020. Further details about MSAC applications can be found under [MSAC Applications](#) on the MSAC website ([Medical Services Advisory Committee](#)).

What does this mean for providers?

Providers will benefit from having access to a new MBS item for patients requiring autologous fat grafting specific for the treatment of burns scars and craniofacial defects.

Please note that additional new items 45534 and 45535, for autologous fat grafting for the breast, will also commence on 1 November 2021.

How will these changes affect patients?

Patients will receive Medicare rebates for clinically relevant autologous fat grafting services.

Who was consulted on the changes?

The following groups were consulted as part of the Medicare Services Advisory Committee (MSAC) process - Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons, Reclaim Your Curves, Breast Cancer Network Australia, Australia and New Zealand Burn Association, Consumers Health Forum Australia, Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and General Surgeons Australia.

How will the changes be monitored and reviewed?

MBS item 45589 will be subject to MBS compliance processes and activities, including random and targeted audits which may require a provider to submit evidence about the services claimed.



Item descriptor

45589	<p>Autologous fat grafting (harvesting, preparation and injection of adipocytes) if:</p> <p>(a) the autologous fat grafting is for either or both of the following purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) the correction of asymmetry arising from volume and contour defects in craniofacial disorders—up to a total of 4 services if each service is provided at least 3 months after the previous service;(ii) the treatment of burn scar or associated skin graft in the context of scar contracture, contour deformity or neuropathic pain, for patients who have undergone a minimum of 3 months of topical therapies, including silicone and pressure therapy, with an unsatisfactory or minimal level of improvement—up to a total of 4 services per region of the body (upper or lower limbs, trunk, neck or face) if each service provided per region of the body is provided at least 3 months after the previous such service; and <p>(b) both:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) photographic and/or diagnostic imaging evidence demonstrating the clinical need for this service is documented in the patient notes; and(ii) for craniofacial disorders, evidence of diagnosis of the qualifying craniofacial disorder is documented in the patient notes <p>(H) (Anaes.)</p> <p>Fee: \$651.50 Benefit: 75% = \$488.65</p>
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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. 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.

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 the Services Australia on the Provider Enquiry Line – 13 21 50.



The data file for software vendors was made available on 22 September 2021 and can be accessed via the MBS Online website under 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.