



Gallium-67 – New temporary diagnostic imaging MBS item

Last updated on: 30 November 2022

- From **8 November 2022 until 30 June 2023**, a new item (61477) will be available on the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) to support patient access to nuclear medicine imaging services that use gallium-67 (Ga-67).

What are the changes?

Item 61477 will provide additional funding to offset some of the recent price increases of Ga-67.

The new item can be claimed in conjunction with items 61429, 61430, 61442, 61450 or 61453. Item 61477 has a \$740.00 schedule fee and must be bulk-billed.

Attachment A contains additional information.

Why are the changes being made?

Ga-67 is used in nuclear medicine diagnostic imaging services.

The manufacturer of Ga-67 used in Australia recently announced that it is no longer manufacturing Ga-67. An alternative supplier has been identified, but the alternative supply is more expensive.

The new item provides temporary assistance, until 30 June 2023, to ensure that the increased cost of Ga-67 supply does not negatively affect patients, particularly those in regional areas where alternative services may be limited.

What does this mean for providers and requesters of diagnostic imaging services?

Providers of diagnostic imaging services can claim item 61477 when they provide a service associated with items 61429, 61430, 61442, 61450 or 61453. Item 61477 must be bulk-billed and all other existing rules will apply to the claiming of this service.

If these services are billed separately, providers should ensure the claim for item 61429, 61430, 61442, 61450 or 61453 has been assessed prior to submitting the claim for item 61477.

There are no changes for requestors of diagnostic imaging services.

How will these changes affect patients?

The changes will ensure that patients continue to have access to the most clinically appropriate nuclear medicine diagnostic imaging item.

Where can I find more information?

The full item descriptor 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 and Aged Care provides an email advice service for providers seeking advice on interpretation of the MBS items, rules, the [Health Insurance Act 1973](#) and associated regulations. If you have a query relating to interpretation of the Schedule, you should email askMBS@health.gov.au.

Private health insurance information on the product tier arrangements is available at www.privatehealth.gov.au. Detailed information on the MBS item listing within clinical categories is available on the [Department's website](#). Private health insurance minimum accommodation benefits information, including MBS item accommodation classification, is available in the latest version of the *Private Health Insurance (Benefit Requirements) Rules 2011* found on the [Federal Register of Legislation](#). If you have a query in relation to private health insurance, you should email PHI@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 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.

Attachment A: Amended item descriptor (to take effect 8 November 2022 to 30 June 2023)

New item 61477 – Conjunctive gallium-67 nuclear medicine imaging service

Overview:

Item 61477 can be co-claimed with items 61429, 61430, 61442, 61450 or 61453 to offset some of the recent changes in the cost of Ga-67.

Descriptor:

Whole body or localised study using gallium, if all of the following apply:

- a) the service is bulk-billed;
- b) the service is performed in conjunction with a service described in items 61429, 61430, 61442, 61450 or 61453.

MBS fee: \$740.00

Restrictions/requirements not listed in the item descriptor:

The item must be claimed on the same day as a service associated with items 61429, 61430, 61442, 61450 or 61453.

As there will be two or more services on claimed for the patient, the diagnostic multiple services rules will apply to these services. See Rule A under [IN.0.11 on MBS Online](#) for more information on the diagnostic imaging multiple services rules.

The item is available from 8 November 2022 to 30 June 2023.

Private Health Insurance (PHI) classifications:

Private health insurance minimum benefit classifications do not apply to item 61477 as this service is only claimable when bulk-billed. However, items 61429, 61430, 61442, 61450, 61453 do have PHI classifications and are not required to be bulk billed.