



Changes to Laparoscopy and Laparotomy procedure MBS services - Reference Guide

Date of change: 1 July 2021

New items: **30720, 30721, 30722, 30723, 30724, 30725**

Amended items: **30382, 30384, 30385, 30387, 30388, 30390, 30396, 30397, 30399, 30574, 30627, 31454**

Deleted items: **30373, 30375, 30376, 30378, 30379, 30391, 30393, 30394, 30402, 30571, 30572, 30575, 31450, 31452**

Revised structure

- **6 July 2021 update: this factsheet now includes the final item descriptors and fees (inclusive of 1 July 2021 indexation) for the new and amended items listed above. Only minor wording changes were made to the item descriptors during the drafting of the legislation, there have been no changes to the clinical intent of the items.**
- From 1 July 2021, Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) items for general surgery services are changing to reflect contemporary practice. These changes are a result of MBS Review Taskforce (Taskforce) recommendations and consultation with stakeholders.
- There will be changes to MBS services pertaining to general surgery categories: Laparoscopy and Laparotomy; Small Bowel Resection; Abdominal Wall Hernias; Oesophageal; Stomach; Liver; Biliary; Pancreas; Spleen; Oncology; Lymph Nodes; Excisions; and Bariatric.
- These changes are relevant for surgeons involved in the performance and claiming of eligible general surgery services; consumers claiming these services; private health insurers; and private hospitals.
- From 1 July 2021, billing practices will need to be adjusted to reflect these changes.

Patient impacts

Patients will receive Medicare rebates for general surgery services that are clinically appropriate and reflect modern clinical practice. Additionally, patients should no longer receive different Medicare rebates for the same operations as there should be less variation in the items claimed by different providers. In some cases, the changes will help doctors refer patients for the most suitable test/procedure for them.



Restrictions or requirements

Providers will need to familiarise themselves with the changes to the general surgery MBS items, and any associated rules and/or explanatory notes. Providers have a responsibility to ensure that any services they bill to Medicare fully meet the eligibility requirements outlined in the legislation.

Laparoscopy and Laparotomy procedure MBS services changes

New item 30720 Appendicectomy on a person 10 years of age or over

Overview: Introducing a new item that combines existing items 30571 (Appendicectomy on a person 10 years of age) and 30572 (Laparoscopic appendicectomy on a person 10 years of age or over). Items 30571 and 30572 will be deleted.

Item Descriptor: Appendicectomy, on a patient 10 years of age or over, whether performed by:

- (a) laparoscopy or right iliac fossa open incision; or
 - (b) conversion of a laparoscopy to an open right iliac fossa incision;
- other than a service to which item 30574 applies (H) (Anaes.) (Assist.)

MBS fee: \$463.50

PHI Classification: Type A - Surgical patient

Clinical Category: Hernia and appendix

New item 30721 Laparotomy or laparoscopy, or laparoscopy converted to laparotomy

Overview: Introducing a new item that combines existing items 30373 (Laparotomy), 30391 (Laparoscopy) and 31450 (Laparoscopic division of adhesions as an independent procedure). Items 30373, 30391 and 31450 will be deleted.

Item Descriptor: Laparotomy or laparoscopy, or laparoscopy converted to laparotomy, with or without associated biopsies, including the division of adhesions (if performed, but only if the time taken to divide adhesions is 45 minutes or less), if no other intra-abdominal procedure is performed (H) (Anaes.) (Assist.)

MBS fee: \$502.85

PHI Classification: Type A - Surgical patient

Clinical Category: Digestive system



New item 30722 Laparotomy or laparoscopy with one or more of specified procedures

Overview: Introducing a new item that combines existing items 30375 (Caecostomy, enterostomy, colostomy, enterotomy, colotomy, cholecystostomy, gastrostomy, gastrotomy, on a person 10 years of age or over) and 30376 (Laparotomy involving division of peritoneal adhesions on a person 10 years of age or over). Items 30375 and 30376 will be deleted.

Item Descriptor: Laparotomy or laparoscopy, on a patient 10 years of age or over, including any of the following procedures (if performed, and including division of one or more adhesions, but only if the time taken to divide the adhesions is 45 minutes or less):

(a) colostomy; (b) colotomy; (c) cholecystostomy; (d) enterostomy; (e) enterotomy; (f) gastrostomy; (g) gastrotomy; (h) caecostomy; (i) gastric fixation by cardiopexy; (j) reduction of intussusception; (k) simple repair of ruptured viscus (including perforated peptic ulcer); (l) reduction of volvulus; (m) drainage of pancreas
(H) (Anaes.) (Assist.)

MBS fee: \$542.40

PHI Classification: Type A - Surgical patient

Clinical Category: Digestive system

New item 30723 Drainage of an intra-abdominal, pancreatic, or retroperitoneal collection or abscess

Overview: : Introducing a new item that combines existing items 30394 (drainage of subphrenic abscess, pelvic abscess, appendiceal abscess, ruptured appendix), 30402 (drainage of retroperitoneal abscess) and 30575 (drainage of pancreatic abscess). Items 30394, 30402 and 30575 will be deleted.

Item Descriptor: Laparotomy, laparoscopy or extra-peritoneal approach, for drainage of an intra-abdominal, pancreatic or retroperitoneal collection or abscess (H) (Anaes.) (Assist.)

MBS fee: \$542.40

PHI Classification: Type A - Surgical patient

Clinical Category: Digestive system



New item 30724 Laparotomy or laparoscopy with division of adhesions (where the time taken for division of the adhesions takes more than 45 minutes but less than 2 hours)

Overview: Introducing a new item that combines existing items 30378 (Laparotomy involving division of adhesions in conjunction with another intraabdominal procedure), 30393 (Laparoscopic division of adhesions in association with another intra-abdominal procedure) and 31452 (Laparoscopic division of adhesions, as an independent procedure). Items 30378, 30393 and 31452 will be deleted.

Item Descriptor: Laparotomy or laparoscopy with division of adhesions, lasting more than 45 minutes but less than 2 hours, performed either:

(a) as a primary procedure; or

(b) when the division of adhesions is performed in conjunction with another primary procedure—to provide access to a surgical field (but excluding mobilisation or normal anatomical dissection of the organ or structure for which the primary procedure is being carried out) (H) (Anaes.) (Assist.)

MBS fee: \$544.95

PHI Classification: Type A - Surgical patient

Clinical Category: Digestive system

New item 30725 Laparotomy or laparoscopy for intestinal obstruction or division of extensive, complex adhesions

Overview: This item is reserved for complex and prolonged division of adhesions taking longer than two hours; either as an emergency procedure or in addition to another elective procedure where access to the operative field is limited by extensive adhesions. Providing for laparotomy or laparoscopic approach. Clarification that mobilisation or normal anatomical dissection of the organ or structure should be claimed under the primary procedure. This item will replace item 30379.

Item Descriptor: Laparotomy or laparoscopy for intestinal obstruction or division of extensive, complex adhesions, lasting 2 hours or more, performed either:

(a) as a primary procedure; or

(b) when the division of adhesions is performed in conjunction with another procedure—to provide access to a surgical field, but excluding mobilisation or normal anatomical dissection of the organ or structure for which the other procedure is being carried out (H) (Anaes.) (Assist.)

MBS fee: \$965.75

PHI Classification: Type A - Advanced surgical patient

Clinical Category: Digestive system



Amended item 30382 Repair of enterocutaneous fistula

Overview: Including the formation of a stoma and anastomosis (re-joining of the bowel) where required.

Item Descriptor: Enterocutaneous fistula, repair of, if dissection and resection of bowel is performed, with or without anastomosis or formation of a stoma (H) (Anaes.) (Assist.)

MBS fee: \$1,359.85

PHI Classification: Type A - Advanced surgical patient

Clinical Category: Digestive system

Amended item 30384 Excision of a retroperitoneal mass

Overview: Providing for open or laparoscopic excision of the large number of possible retroperitoneal masses arising from other retroperitoneal structures.

Item Descriptor: Open or minimally invasive excision of a retroperitoneal mass, 4 cm or greater in largest dimension, lasting more than 3 hours, other than a service to which another item in this Group applies (H) (Anaes.) (Assist.)

MBS fee: \$1,420.20

PHI Classification: Type A - Advanced surgical patient

Clinical Category: Digestive system

Amended item 30385 Drainage of intra-abdominal haemorrhage following abdominal surgery

Overview: Providing for open or laparoscopic approach and drainage where required.

Item Descriptor: Unplanned return to theatre for laparotomy or laparoscopy for control or drainage of intra-abdominal haemorrhage following abdominal surgery (H) (Anaes.) (Assist.)

MBS fee: \$586.15

PHI Classification: Type A - Surgical patient

Clinical Category: Digestive system



Amended item 30387 Laparoscopy or laparotomy involving operation on abdominal, retroperitoneal or pelvic viscera

Overview: Providing for laparoscopic or laparotomy approach, describing current best practice.

Item Descriptor: Laparoscopy or laparotomy when an operation is performed on abdominal, retroperitoneal or pelvic viscera, excluding lymph node biopsy, other than a service to which another item in this Group applies (H) (Anaes.) (Assist.)

MBS fee: \$660.75

PHI Classification: Type A - Surgical patient

Clinical Category: Digestive system

Amended item 30388 Laparotomy for abdominal trauma

Overview: Reflecting control of haemorrhage and damage control.

Item Descriptor: Laparotomy for abdominal trauma, including control of haemorrhage (with or without packing) and containment of contamination (H) (Anaes.) (Assist.)

MBS fee: \$1,108.20

PHI Classification: Type A - Advanced surgical patient

Clinical Category: Common list

Amended item 30390 Diagnostic Laparoscopy

Overview: Clarification that this item is not to be claimed with an intra-abdominal procedure.

Item Descriptor: Laparoscopy, diagnostic, with or without aspiration of fluid, on a patient 10 years of age or over, if no other intra-abdominal procedure is performed (H) (Anaes.) (Assist)

MBS fee: \$228.85

PHI Classification: Type B - Para 5, Non-band specific Type B procedures

Clinical Category: Common list



Amended item 30396 Laparotomy or laparoscopy for generalised intra peritoneal sepsis

Overview: Providing for laparoscopic or laparotomy approach, describing current best practice.

Item Descriptor: Laparotomy or laparoscopy for generalised intra-peritoneal sepsis (also known as peritonitis), with or without removal of foreign material or enteric contents, with lavage of the entire peritoneal cavity, with or without closure of the abdomen when performed by laparotomy (H) (Anaes.) (Assist.)

MBS fee: \$1,057.75

PHI Classification: Type A - Advanced surgical patient

Clinical Category: Digestive system

Amended item 30397 Laparostomy via wound previously made

Overview: The removal of the specific reference to 'zipper' to acknowledge that there are multiple methods.

Item Descriptor: Laparostomy, via wound previously made and left open or closed, including change of dressings or packs, with or without drainage of loculated collections (H) (Anaes.)

MBS fee: \$241.75

PHI Classification: Other

Clinical Category: Digestive system

Amended item 30399 Laparostomy, final closure of wound made at previous operation

Overview: The removal of the specific reference to 'zipper' or 'mesh' to acknowledge that there are multiple methods.

Item Descriptor: Laparostomy, final closure of wound made at previous operation, after removal of dressings or packs (H) (Anaes.) (Assist.)

MBS fee: \$332.50

PHI Classification: Type A - Surgical patient

Clinical Category: Digestive system



Amended item 30574 Appendicectomy when performed in conjunction with another intra-abdominal procedure

Overview: Including the requirement that a specimen is sent for pathological testing.

Item Descriptor: Appendicectomy, when performed in conjunction with another intra-abdominal procedure and during which a specimen is collected and sent for pathological testing (H) (Anaes.)

MBS fee: \$64.10

PHI Classification: Other

Clinical Category: Hernia and appendix

Amended item 30627 Diagnostic laparoscopy on a person under 10 years of age

Overview: Clarification that this item is not to be claimed with an intra-abdominal procedure.

Item Descriptor: Laparoscopy, diagnostic, if no other intra-abdominal procedure is performed, on a patient under 10 years of age (H) (Anaes.)

MBS fee: \$297.55

PHI Classification: Non-band specific Type B day procedure

Clinical Category: Digestive system

Amended item 31454 Laparoscopy or laparotomy with drainage of bile

Overview: Removal of drainage of blood and pus from item as these procedures are provided by amended item 30385 and new item 30723 respectively.

Item Descriptor: Laparoscopy or laparotomy with drainage of bile, as an independent procedure (H) (Anaes.) (Assist.)

MBS fee: \$586.15

PHI Classification: Type A - Surgical patient

Clinical Category: Digestive system



Deleted item 30373 Laparotomy (exploratory), including associated biopsies, if no other intra-abdominal procedure is performed (H) (Anaes.) (Assist.)

MBS Fee: \$498.35 (combined into new item 30721)

Deleted item 30375 Caecostomy, enterostomy, colostomy, enterotomy, colotomy, cholecystostomy, gastrostomy, gastrotomy, reduction of intussusception, removal of Meckel's diverticulum, suture of perforated peptic ulcer, simple repair of ruptured viscus, reduction of volvulus, pyloroplasty or drainage of pancreas, on a person 10 years of age or over (H) (Anaes.) (Assist.) MBS Fee: \$537.55 (combined into new item 30722)

Deleted item 30376 Laparotomy involving division of peritoneal adhesions (if no other intra-abdominal procedure is performed), on a person 10 years of age or over (H) (Anaes.) (Assist.) MBS Fee: \$537.55 (combined into new item 30722)

Deleted item 30378 Laparotomy involving division of adhesions in association with another intra-abdominal procedure if the time taken to divide the adhesions is between 45 minutes and 2 hours, on a person 10 years of age or over (H) (Anaes.) (Assist.) MBS Fee: \$540.10 (combined into new item 30724)

Deleted Item 30379 Laparotomy with division of extensive adhesions (lasting more than 2 hours) with or without insertion of long intestinal tube (H) (Anaes.) (Assist.) MBS Fee: \$957.15 (replaced by item 30725)

Deleted item 30391 Laparoscopy, with biopsy (H) (Anaes.) (Assist.)

MBS Fee: \$293.25 (combined into new item 30721)

Deleted item 30393 Laparoscopic division of adhesions in association with another intra-abdominal procedure if the time taken to divide the adhesions exceeds 45 minutes (H) (Anaes.) (Assist.) MBS Fee: \$540.10 (combined into new item 30724)



Deleted item 30394 Laparotomy for drainage of subphrenic abscess, pelvic abscess, appendiceal abscess, ruptured appendix or for peritonitis from any cause, with or without appendicectomy (H) (Anaes.) (Assist.)

MBS Fee: \$508.25 (combined into new item 30723)

Deleted item 30402 Retroperitoneal abscess, drainage of, not involving laparotomy (H) (Anaes.) (Assist.) MBS Fee: \$479.15 (combined into new item 30723)

Deleted item 30571 Appendicectomy, on a person 10 years of age or over, other than a service to which item 30574 applies (H) (Anaes.) (Assist.) MBS Fee: \$459.35 (combined into new item 30720)

Deleted item 30572 Laparoscopic appendicectomy, on a person 10 years of age or over (H) (Anaes.) (Assist.) MBS Fee: \$459.35 (combined into new item 30720)

Deleted item 30575 Pancreatic abscess, laparotomy and external drainage of, not requiring retro-pancreatic dissection (H) (Anaes.) (Assist.) MBS Fee: \$528.70 (combined into new item 30723)

Deleted item 31450 Laparoscopic division of adhesions, as an independent procedure, if the time taken is 1 hour or less (H) (Anaes.) (Assist.) MBS Fee: \$419.35 (combined into new item 30721)

Deleted item 31452 Laparoscopic division of adhesions, as an independent procedure, if the time taken is more than 1 hour (H) (Anaes.) (Assist.) MBS Fee: \$733.75 (combined into new item 30724)



Where can I find more information?

For questions relating to implementation, or to the interpretation of the changes to general surgery MBS items prior to 1 July 2021, please email 1july2021MBSchanges.generalsurgery@health.gov.au. Questions regarding the PHI classifications should be directed to PHI@health.gov.au.

If you have a query relating exclusively to interpretation of the Schedule after the changes to the general surgery items have been implemented on 1 July 2021, please email askMBS@health.gov.au.

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.