



Changes to Oesophageal procedure MBS services - Reference Guide

Date of change: 1 July 2021

New items: 30750, 30751, 30752, 30753, 30754, 30755, 30756

Amended items: 31468, 30532, 30560, 30600, 30601

Deleted items: 30527, 30535, 30536, 30538, 30539, 30541, 30542, 30544,
30545, 30547, 30548, 30550, 30551, 30553, 30554, 30556,
30557, 31464

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.



Oesophageal procedure MBS services changes

New item 30750 Oesophagectomy (with colon or jejunal interposition graft) – performed by one surgeon

Overview: Introducing a new item for oesophagectomy (with colon or jejunal interposition graft) performed by one surgeon. The item combines existing items 30545 (Oesophagectomy (with colon or jejunal anastomosis) – one surgeon), 30550 (Oesophagectomy (with colon or jejunal replacement) – one surgeon) and 30554 (Oesophagectomy (with reconstruction by free jejunal graft) – one surgeon). Items 30545, 30550 and 30554 will be deleted.

Item Descriptor: Oesophagectomy with colon or jejunal interposition graft, by any approach, including:

- (a) any gastrointestinal anastomoses (except vascular anastomoses); and
- (b) anastomoses in the chest or neck (if appropriate)

One surgeon (H) (Anaes.) (Assist.)

MBS fee: \$2,145.80

PHI Classification: Type A - Advanced surgical patient

Clinical Category: Digestive system

New item 30751 Oesophagectomy (with colon or jejunal interposition graft) – conjoint surgery – principal surgeon

Overview: Introducing a new item for oesophagectomy (with colon or jejunal interposition graft) performed by two surgeons, this item is for the principal surgeon performing this procedure. This item combines existing items 30547 (Oesophagectomy (with colon or jejunal anastomosis), conjoint surgery, principal surgeon), 30551 (Oesophagectomy (with colon or jejunal replacement), conjoint surgery, principal surgeon) and 30556 (Oesophagectomy (with reconstruction by free jejunal graft), conjoint surgery, principal surgeon). Items 30547, 30551 and 30556 will be deleted. The fees for conjoint surgery oesophagectomy items have been adjusted to encourage conjoint surgery for this procedure.

Item Descriptor: Oesophagectomy with colon or jejunal interposition graft, by any approach, including:

- (a) any gastrointestinal anastomoses (except vascular anastomoses); and
- (b) anastomoses in the chest or neck (if appropriate)

Conjoint surgery, principal surgeon (H) (Anaes.) (Assist.)

MBS fee: \$2,145.80

PHI Classification: Type A - Advanced surgical patient

Clinical Category: Digestive system



New item 30752 Oesophagectomy (with colon or jejunal interposition graft) – conjoint surgery – co-surgeon

Overview: Introducing a new item for oesophagectomy (with colon or jejunal interposition graft) performed by two surgeons, this item is for the co-surgeon performing this procedure. This item combines existing items 30548 (Oesophagectomy (with colon or jejunal anastomosis), conjoint surgery, co-surgeon), 30553 (Oesophagectomy (with colon or jejunal replacement), conjoint surgery, co-surgeon) and 30557 (Oesophagectomy (with reconstruction by free jejunal graft), conjoint surgery, co-surgeon). Items 30548, 30553, 30557 will be deleted.

Item Descriptor: Oesophagectomy with colon or jejunal interposition graft, by any approach, including:

(a) any gastrointestinal anastomoses (except vascular anastomoses); and

(b) anastomoses in the chest or neck (if appropriate)

Conjoint surgery, co-surgeon (H) (Anaes.) (Assist.)

MBS fee: \$1,609.35

PHI Classification: Type A - Advanced surgical patient

Clinical Category: Digestive system

New item 30753 Oesophagectomy (involving gastric reconstruction by abdominal mobilisation) – performed by one surgeon

Overview: Introducing a new item for oesophagectomy (involving gastric reconstruction by abdominal mobilisation) performed by one surgeon. The item combines existing items 30536 (Oesophagectomy (involving gastric reconstruction by abdominal mobilisation, thoracotomy and anastomosis in the neck or chest) – one surgeon) and 30535 (Oesophagectomy (with gastric reconstruction by abdominal mobilisation and thoracotomy) - one surgeon). Items 30536 and 30535 will be deleted.

Item Descriptor: Oesophagectomy, by any approach, including:

(a) gastric reconstruction by abdominal mobilisation, thoracotomy or thoracoscopy; and

(b) anastomosis in the neck or chest

One surgeon (H) (Anaes.) (Assist.)

MBS fee: \$1,790.65

PHI Classification: Type A - Advanced surgical patient

Clinical Category: Digestive system



New item 30754 Oesophagectomy (involving gastric reconstruction by abdominal mobilisation) – conjoint surgery - principle surgeon

Overview: Introducing a new item for oesophagectomy (involving gastric reconstruction by abdominal mobilisation) performed by two surgeons, this item is for the principal surgeon performing this procedure. This item will replace item 30538. The fees for conjoint surgery oesophagectomy items have been adjusted to encourage conjoint surgery for this procedure.

Item Descriptor: Oesophagectomy, by any approach, including:

- (a) gastric reconstruction by abdominal mobilisation, thoracotomy or thoracoscopy; and
 - (b) anastomosis in the neck or chest
- Conjoint surgery, principal surgeon (H) (Anaes.) (Assist.)

MBS fee: \$1,790.65

PHI Classification: Type A - Advanced surgical patient

Clinical Category: Digestive system

New item 30755 Oesophagectomy (involving gastric reconstruction by abdominal mobilisation) – conjoint surgery – co-surgeon

Overview: Introducing a new item for oesophagectomy (involving gastric reconstruction by abdominal mobilisation) performed by two surgeons, this item is for the co-surgeon performing this procedure. This item will replace item 30539. The fees for conjoint surgery oesophagectomy items have been adjusted to encourage conjoint surgery for this procedure.

Item Descriptor: Oesophagectomy by any approach, including:

- (a) gastric reconstruction by abdominal mobilisation, thoracotomy or thoracoscopy; and
 - (b) anastomosis in the neck or chest
- Conjoint surgery, co-surgeon (H) (Anaes.) (Assist.)

MBS fee: \$1,343.00

PHI Classification: Type A - Advanced surgical patient

Clinical Category: Digestive system



New item 30756 Antireflux operation by fundoplasty

Overview: Introducing a new item that combines existing items 30527 (Anti-reflux operation by fundoplasty, via abdominal or thoracic approach, with or without closure of the diaphragmatic hiatus) and 31464 (Anti-reflux operation by fundoplasty, via abdominal or thoracic approach, with or without closure of the diaphragmatic hiatus, by laparoscopic technique). Items 30527 and 31464 will be deleted.

Item Descriptor: Antireflux operation by fundoplasty, with or without cardiopexy, by any approach, with or without closure of the diaphragmatic hiatus, other than a service to which item 30601 applies (H) (Anaes.) (Assist.)

MBS fee: \$906.65

PHI Classification: Type A - Advanced surgical patient **Clinical Category:** Digestive system

Amended item 31468 Repair of para-oesophageal hiatus hernia

Overview: Clarifying that this item should not be claimed with item 30756 (Antireflux operation by fundoplasty with or without cardiopexy, by any approach) or 31466 (Antireflux operation by fundoplasty, via abdominal or thoracic approach).

Item Descriptor: Para-oesophageal hiatus hernia, repair of, with complete reduction of hernia, resection of sac and repair of hiatus, with or without fundoplication, other than a service associated with a service to which item 30756 or 31466 applies (H) (Anaes.) (Assist.)

MBS fee: \$1,494.05

PHI Classification: Type A - Advanced surgical patient

Clinical Category: Digestive system

Amended item 30532 Oesophagogastric myotomy (Heller's operation)

Overview: Inclusion of procedure performed endoscopically, procedure includes fundoplication when performed laparoscopically.

Item Descriptor: Oesophagogastric myotomy (Heller's operation) by endoscopic, abdominal or thoracic approach, whether performed by open or minimally invasive approach, including fundoplication when performed laparoscopically (H) (Anaes.) (Assist.)

MBS fee: \$936.90

PHI Classification: Type A - Advanced surgical patient

Clinical Category: Digestive system



Amended item 30560 Repair of oesophageal perforation

Overview: : Inclusion of abdominal or thoracic approach for procedure and thoracic drainage.

Item Descriptor: Oesophageal perforation, repair of, by abdominal or thoracic approach, including thoracic drainage (H) (Anaes.) (Assist.)

MBS fee: \$982.05

PHI Classification: Type A - Advanced surgical patient

Clinical Category: Digestive system

Amended item 30600 Emergency repair of a diaphragmatic laceration or hernia

Overview: Clarification that this item provides for emergency situations and is not associated with long standing adhesions and difficult dissection in a difficult area.

Item Descriptor: Emergency repair of diaphragmatic laceration or hernia, following recent trauma, by any approach, including when performed in conjunction with another procedure indicated as a result of abdominal or chest trauma (H) (Anaes.) (Assist.)

MBS fee: \$808.60

PHI Classification: Type A - Surgical patient **Clinical Category:** Digestive system

Amended item 30601 Repair of a diaphragmatic hernia

Overview: Inclusion of delayed repair of a traumatic ruptured diaphragm.

Item Descriptor: Diaphragmatic hernia, congenital, or delayed presentation of traumatic rupture, repair of, by thoracic or abdominal approach, on a patient 10 years of age or over, other than a service to which any of items 31569 to 31581 apply (H) (Anaes.) (Assist.)

MBS fee: \$996.10

PHI Classification: Type A - Advanced surgical patient

Clinical Category: Digestive system



Deleted item 30527 Antireflux operation by fundoplasty, via abdominal or thoracic approach, with or without closure of the diaphragmatic hiatus—other than a service to which item 30601 applies (H) (Anaes.) (Assist.) MBS Fee: \$898.55 (combined into new item 30756)

Deleted item 30535 Oesophagectomy with gastric reconstruction by abdominal mobilisation and thoracotomy (H) (Anaes.) (Assist.) MBS Fee: \$1,749.65 (combined into new item 30753)

Deleted item 30536 Oesophagectomy involving gastric reconstruction by abdominal mobilisation, thoracotomy and anastomosis in the neck or chest—one surgeon (H) (Anaes.) (Assist.) MBS Fee: \$1,774.70 (combined into new item 30753)

Deleted item 30538 Oesophagectomy involving gastric reconstruction by abdominal mobilisation, thoracotomy and anastomosis in the neck or chest—conjoint surgery, principal surgeon (including after care) (H) (Anaes.) (Assist.) MBS Fee: \$1,228.00 (replaced by new item 30754)

Deleted item 30539 Oesophagectomy involving gastric reconstruction by abdominal mobilisation, thoracotomy and anastomosis in the neck or chest—conjoint surgery, co surgeon (H) (Anaes.) (Assist.) MBS Fee: \$898.55 (replaced by new item 30755)

Deleted item 30541 Oesophagectomy, by trans-hiatal oesophagectomy (cervical and abdominal mobilisation, anastomosis) with posterior or anterior mediastinal placement—one surgeon (H) (Anaes.) (Assist.) MBS Fee: \$1,564.95 (item does not reflect current best practice, Other oesophagectomy item numbers provide appropriate, best practice treatment options)

Deleted item 30542 Oesophagectomy, by trans-hiatal oesophagectomy (cervical and abdominal mobilisation, anastomosis) with posterior or anterior mediastinal placement—conjoint surgery, principal surgeon (including after-care) (H) (Anaes.) (Assist.) MBS Fee: \$1,063.30 (item does not reflect current best practice, Other oesophagectomy item numbers provide appropriate, best practice treatment options)



Deleted item 30544 Oesophagectomy, by trans-hiatal oesophagectomy (cervical and abdominal mobilisation, anastomosis) with posterior or anterior mediastinal placement—conjoint surgery, co-surgeon (H) (Assist.) MBS Fee: \$778.80 (item does not reflect current best practice, Other oesophagectomy item numbers provide appropriate, best practice treatment options)

Deleted item 30545 Oesophagectomy with colon or jejunal anastomosis, (abdominal and thoracic mobilisation with thoracic anastomosis)—one surgeon (H) (Anaes.) (Assist.) MBS Fee: \$1,894.50 (combined into new item 30750)

Deleted item 30547 Oesophagectomy with colon or jejunal anastomosis, (abdominal and thoracic mobilisation with thoracic anastomosis)—conjoint surgery, principal surgeon (including after-care) (Anaes.) (Assist.) MBS Fee: \$1,302.80 (combined into new item 30751)

Deleted item 30548 Oesophagectomy with colon or jejunal anastomosis, (abdominal and thoracic mobilisation with thoracic anastomosis)—conjoint surgery, co-surgeon (Assist.) MBS Fee: \$973.30 (combined into new item 30752)

Deleted item 30550 Oesophagectomy with colon or jejunal replacement (abdominal and thoracic mobilisation with anastomosis of pedicle in the neck)—one surgeon (H) (Anaes.) (Assist.) MBS Fee: \$2,126.65 (combined into new item 30750)

Deleted item 30551 Oesophagectomy with colon or jejunal replacement (abdominal and thoracic mobilisation with anastomosis of pedicle in the neck)—conjoint surgery, principal surgeon (including after-care) (H) (Anaes.) (Assist.) MBS Fee: \$1,467.60 (combined into new item 30751)

Deleted item 30553 Oesophagectomy with colon or jejunal replacement (abdominal and thoracic mobilisation with anastomosis of pedicle in the neck)—conjoint surgery, co-surgeon (Assist.) MBS Fee: \$1,085.55 (combined into new item 30752)

Deleted item 30554 Oesophagectomy with reconstruction by free jejunal graft— one surgeon (H) (Anaes.) (Assist.) MBS Fee: \$2,366.10 (combined into new item 30750)

Deleted item 30556 Oesophagectomy with reconstruction by free jejunal graft— conjoint surgery, principal surgeon (including after-care) (H) (Anaes.) (Assist.) MBS Fee: \$1,632.20 (combined into new item 30751)



Deleted item 30557 Oesophagectomy with reconstruction by free jejunal graft—conjoint surgery, co-surgeon (H) (Assist.) MBS Fee: \$1,205.50 (combined into new item 30752)

Deleted item 31464 Antireflux operation by fundoplasty, via abdominal or thoracic approach, with or without closure of the diaphragmatic hiatus, by laparoscopic technique—other than a service to which item 30601 applies (H) (Anaes.) (Assist.) MBS Fee: \$898.55 (combined into new item 30756)

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.