

Update- Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) Review Taskforce

First report from the Ear Nose and Throat (ENT) Surgery Clinical Committee - Tonsillectomy, Adenoidectomy & Insertion of Grommets

15th of September 2016

On 22 April 2015, the Minister for Health, the Hon Sussan Ley MP, announced the formation of the Medicare Benefits Schedule Review Taskforce (the Taskforce). The Taskforce will review the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) in its entirety, considering individual items as well as the rules and legislation governing their application.

[Click here to read more about the MBS Review Taskforce on the Department of Health's website](#)

Audiology Australia submitted a response to the MBS Review Taskforce Consultation Paper on the 9th of November 2015 ([click here to view Audiology Australia's submission](#)).

Audiology Australia has also nominated two audiologists to the MBS Review Clinical Committees for:

1. Ear, Nose, and Throat (ENT) Surgery (includes audiology)
2. Allied health (includes currently funded chronic disease management services)
3. Indigenous Health

The ENT Surgery Clinical Committee has reviewed any obsolete MBS items

The ENT Committee has published its first report marking the completion of phase one of its work (1)- [click here to view the report](#). Phase one of the review prioritised the items relating to tonsillectomy, adenoidectomy, insertion of grommets and identification of obsolete items.

Following the stakeholder consultation phase, which we encouraged our members to contribute to (see [here](#)), the ENT Committee and the Taskforce agreed that eight items be removed from the MBS from 1 July 2016 (recommendation 7- p.29, (1)), including:

- 11321 – Glycerol induced cochlear function changes, assessed by a minimum of 4 air conduction and speech discrimination tests (Klockoff's tests)

The ENT Committee recommended “no changes to the MBS item for insertion of grommets.

However, the low rate of myringotomies performed in the Northern Territory was of concern. The serious consequences for the hearing of patients who experience difficulty accessing appropriate services has a significant impact on Indigenous communities. The Committee recommended further examination of the utilisation in this area of need.” (recommendation 2- p.16, (1)).

You can provide feedback to the Taskforce on these recommendations

The MBS Review Taskforce wants to hear your opinion as a health professional on the recommendations and give you the chance to provide further evidence if you do not support the recommendations: [MBS Review Taskforce Consultation](#).

You can choose to complete one or more of the online surveys by **Friday 7 October 2016**.

MBS items yet to be reviewed

Audiology Australia has been told¹ that the MBS items claimable by audiologists have not been considered by the MBS Review Taskforce.

The diagnostic audiology items (82300-82332) are yet to be considered, but are likely to be considered by the ENT Surgery Clinical Committee during phase 2 (1).

The following items will be considered under the Allied Health Clinical Committee:

- 10952- Audiology item for chronic condition and complex care needs
- 82030 and 82035- Audiology items for Children with autism, pervasive developmental disorder or an eligible disability¹

The audiology item for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples (81310) will be considered by the Indigenous Health Clinical Committee¹.

The descriptors for the items mentioned in this information sheet can be found by searching [MBS Online](#).

References

1. Medicare Benefits Schedule Review Taskforce. First report from the Ear Nose and Throat (ENT) Surgery Clinical Committee - Tonsillectomy, Adenoidectomy & Insertion of Grommets. 2016 Aug.

¹ Personal communication, Medicare Review Unit, Medical Benefits Division, Department of Health, 21 April 2016.