

Update- Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) Review Taskforce

2nd of February 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 also nominated two audiologists to the MBS Review Clinical Committees for:

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

Obsolete MBS Items – Tranche #1

The Ear, Nose and Throat Surgery Clinical Committee has recommended that the items listed on the following page are obsolete and should be removed from the MBS. That is, “they are items or services which have no clinical purpose in contemporary practice, the services identified are better covered under other items, or the items are no longer used for the purpose for which they were introduced.” (p.3, [MBS Review- Obsolete Items Consultation- December 2015](#)).

Members who would like to provide feedback on the Ear, Nose and Throat Surgery Clinical Committee's recommendations regarding obsolete items can do so using the MBS Review Taskforce's [online consultation tool](#).

The consultation process is open until Monday the 8th of February 2016.

Further information including the Ear, Nose and Throat Surgery Clinical Committee's motivations as to why these items should be removed and a list of the questions posed in the online consultation tool are available in the [MBS Review- Obsolete Items Consultation- December 2015 paper](#).

Obsolete Ear, Nose, and Throat Surgery MBS items – Tranche #1

Otolaryngology and Audiology Diagnostic Procedures

11321- GLYCEROL INDUCED COCHLEAR FUNCTION CHANGES assessed by a minimum of 4 air conduction and speech discrimination tests (Klockoff's tests)

Therapeutic Procedures

18246- GLOSSOPHARYNGEAL NERVE, injection of an anaesthetic agent

Ear Nose and Throat Procedures

41680- CRYOTHERAPY TO NOSE in the treatment of nasal haemorrhage (Anaes.)

41695- TURBINATES, cryotherapy to (Anaes.)

41758- DIVISION OF PHARYNGEAL ADHESIONS (Anaes.)

41761- POSTNASAL SPACE, direct examination of, with or without biopsy (Anaes.)

41846- LARYNX, direct examination of the supraglottic, glottic and subglottic regions, not being a service associated with any other procedure on the larynx or with the administration of a general anaesthetic (Anaes.)

41849- LARYNX, direct examination of, with biopsy (Anaes.) (Assist.)

41852- LARYNX, direct examination of, WITH REMOVAL OF TUMOUR (Anaes.) (Assist.)

The descriptors for the above items can be found by searching [MBS Online](#).