



Medicare Benefits Schedule Review

Endocrinology



This fact sheet outlines the key draft recommendations from the Endocrinology Clinical Committee report. For more detailed information on each recommendation, see the **summary for consumers** or read the **full report**.



Number of items reviewed

60



Number of recommendations

9

✓ Key draft recommendations

Promote best practice surgical treatment of hyperthyroidism

Current clinical guidelines suggest it is better to remove the entire thyroid, rather than part of the thyroid, when surgically treating an overactive thyroid. The Committee believes this best practice should be reflected in the MBS. Therefore, the Committee is proposing the descriptors for these items be amended to encourage total thyroid removals.



Thyroid gland: A gland located at the front of the neck, below the Adam's apple. The thyroid secretes hormones which affect metabolic rate.

Parathyroid glands: Two pairs of small glands in the neck that make parathyroid hormone, which regulates the amount of certain minerals in the blood and bones.

Adrenal glands: Glands located above the kidneys that produce a variety of hormones including adrenaline and cortisol.

Modernise MBS items related to parathyroid surgery

The Committee agreed all four parathyroid surgery items are unclear and outdated. The Committee is recommending that the four parathyroid surgery items be significantly changed to make descriptors clearer and ensure they are reflecting best practice.

Modernise MBS items related to adrenal gland surgery

The MBS currently lists four adrenal gland surgery items. The Committee agreed, do not reflect best clinical practice and could allow for unintentional misuse. To ensure consistent billing and treatment practices, the Committee has recommended simplifying the four items into two items.

About MBS Review

The MBS Review Taskforce is considering how more than 5,700 services can be aligned with contemporary clinical evidence and practice and improve health outcomes for patients. It is led by a Taskforce of clinicians, health system experts and consumer representatives.