



# Medicare Benefits Schedule Review

## Diagnostic Imaging—Pulmonary Embolism and Deep Vein Thrombosis

This factsheet outlines the key recommendations from the **MBS Review Taskforce’s Diagnostic Imaging—Pulmonary Embolism (PE) and Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT) Imaging Clinical Committee** report. For more detailed information on each recommendation, see the [summary for consumers](#) or read all recommendations in the [full report](#).



Number of items reviewed

**33**



Number of recommendations

**4**

### ✓ Key recommendations

#### Encourage best practice selection of imaging for suspected lower limb DVT

The RANZCR 2015 [Choosing Wisely](#) recommendations discourage practitioners from requesting duplex compression ultrasound for suspected lower limb DVT, unless the DVT risk assessment score indicates otherwise. To align the MBS item use with RANZCR’s guidance, the Committee is recommending an explanatory note be added to the item encouraging practitioners to read the Choosing Wisely recommendations before requesting imaging.

#### Prevent co-claiming for DVT and chronic venous disease

It is inappropriate for ultrasound items for both acute DVT and chronic venous disease to be claimed for the same leg of the same patient on the same day—it is clinically unnecessary. However, MBS data suggests there were 2,449 episodes of co-claiming of this nature in 2014-15. The Committee is recommending changes to provide clarification on the appropriateness of co-claiming.

#### Encourage best practice selection of imaging for suspected PE

The Committee is recommending an explanatory note be introduced to various items to encourage the use of the RANZCR 2015 Choosing Wisely recommendations when referring patients for imaging in cases of suspected PE.



**Deep vein thrombosis** refers to the formation of a blood clot in the deep venous system, most commonly in the deep veins of the legs and thighs.

**Pulmonary embolism** is a blockage in one of the pulmonary arteries of the lungs. The blockages are caused by blood clots that have travelled through the bloodstream, including DVT.

### 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.