



## Medicare Indicators



As DAB Radiology is a Bulk Billing practice we must adhere strictly to the Medicare Benefits Schedule. This means that some exams have restrictions as to why they can be requested, and the reasons must be specific and written on the referral. In some cases, certain exams cannot be performed on the same day so patient may have to make more than one visit to the practice.

### Shoulder Ultrasound

Medicare has restrictions on what conditions are eligible for an ultrasound of the shoulder to either be bulk billed or attract a Medicare rebate. These conditions are listed below;

- Evaluation of injury to tendon, muscle or muscle/tendon junction;
- Rotator cuff tear/calcification/tendinosis (biceps, subscapular, supraspinatus, infraspinatus);
- Biceps subluxation;
- Capsulitis and bursitis;
- Evaluation of mass including ganglion;
- Occult fracture; or - acromioclavicular joint pathology.(R)

### Knee Ultrasound

Similar to an ultrasound of the shoulder, Medicare has also placed restrictions on ultrasounds to the knee. The conditions are;

- Abnormality of tendons or bursae about the knee
- Meniscal cyst, popliteal fossa cyst, mass or pseudo mass;
- or - nerve entrapment, nerve or nerve sheath tumour;injury of collateral ligaments.(R)

In addition to this the scan will not be eligible if it is requested for knee pain and/or meniscal injury, cruciate

ligament injury or an examination of the chondral surfaces.

### Thyroid/Neck Ultrasound

Medicare added restrictions to neck and thyroid ultrasounds in May of 2020 with the introduction of a list of items that must be mentioned on the referral as well as some items that would make the referral ineligible.

If the following are listed on the referral then the exam WILL be eligible;

- Evaluation of a palpable thyroid nodule or neck mass
- Evaluation of abnormalities detected on other imaging studies regarding the thyroid, parathyroid or neck mass
- Follow up of known thyroid nodules
- Evaluation of presence size and location of thyroid
- Screening of high risk patients for occult thyroid malignancy
- Localisation of parathyroids in patients with hyperparathyroidism
- Preoperative staging of thyroid cancer
- Surveillance for recurrent disease for a patient with a history of thyroid cancer



However, the following items will not attract a Medicare benefit or bulk billing;

- Abnormalities in thyroid function tests
- Abnormalities in thyroid antibodies
- Sore throat, neck pain and globus pharyngeus-type symptoms in the absence of any indication of thyroid disease.

If you refer one of these exams and it does not meet the Medicare eligibility standards our friendly receptions staff will contact your clinic with an amendment form that can be filled out so that your patient may be bulk billed for their examination.

**Some examples of examinations that can not be performed on the same day include;**

- Abdominal and Renal Ultrasound
- Pelvic and Renal Ultrasound
- Renal Arteries Doppler and Renal Ultrasound
- Breast Ultrasound and Abdominal or Chest Wall Ultrasound

- MSK Ultrasound and Interventional Ultrasound (injection/ biopsy)
- MSK Ultrasound and Doppler Ultrasound
- Pregnancy Ultrasound and Renal/Abdominal/Pelvis and Doppler Ultrasound

In addition to this some exams may need to be spread over two visits. Such as;

- Bilateral Doppler Ultrasound
- Multiple Injections (CT and Ultrasound)
- Diagnostic MSK Ultrasound and Injections.

If you have any questions in regards to whether some may or may not be eligible please give our reception team a call to discuss.