



## Quick Reference Guide:

### Amended items for leadless permanent cardiac pacemaker (LPM)

**Date of change:** 1 March 2024

**Amended item:** 38373 38374

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### Revised structure

- From 1 March 2024, two Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) items 38373 and 38374 for percutaneous retrieval and/or replacement of a LPM will be amended to clarify requirements for standby cardiothoracic surgeon support and need for immediate access to a theatre capable of open cardiothoracic surgery.
- A standby surgeon does not have to be present if the LPM device is removed inside four weeks from the initial insertion.
- This amendment is a policy change that was proposed by Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand and supported by the Australian and New Zealand Society of Cardiac and Thoracic Surgeons. It was approved for funding as part of the 2023-24 Budget.
- Billing practices from 1 March 2024 will need to be adjusted to reflect these changes.

### Patient impacts

- The changes support high value care and ensure patient safety. These changes reflect modern clinical practice and will ensure patients receive a Medicare benefit for LPM services when clinically appropriate.

### Restrictions or requirements

- If the services associated with items 38373 and 38374 are undertaken within four weeks from the initial insertion, a standby surgeon does not need to be present.
- This procedure is only appropriate to be performed in the in-hospital setting (benefit 75%).
- Providers are responsible for ensuring services claimed from Medicare using their provider number meet all legislative requirements. These changes are subject to MBS compliance checks and providers may be required to submit evidence about the services claimed.



## Amended 38373 – LPM, percutaneous retrieval and replacement of

**Overview:** This item is being amended to clarify that a standby surgeon does not have to be present if the LPM device is retrieved and replaced inside four weeks from the initial insertion.

**Descriptor:**

Leadless permanent cardiac pacemaker, single-chamber ventricular, percutaneous retrieval and replacement of, including cardiac electrophysiological services, during the same percutaneous procedure, if:

- (a) the service is performed by a specialist or consultant physician who has undertaken training to perform the service; and
- (b) if the service is performed at least 4 weeks after the pacemaker was inserted—the service is performed in a facility where cardiothoracic surgery is available and a thoracotomy can be performed immediately and without transfer; and
- (c) if the service is performed by an interventional cardiologist at least 4 weeks after the pacemaker was inserted—a cardiothoracic surgeon is in attendance during the service;

other than a service associated with a service to which item 38350 applies

(H) (Anaes.)

**Fee:** \$830.30 (no change)

**Benefit:** 75% = \$622.70

**Private Health Insurance Classification:**

- **Clinical category:** Heart and Vascular System
- **Procedure type:** Type A Surgical



## Amended item 38374 – LPM, percutaneous retrieval of

**Overview:** This item is being amended to clarify that a standby surgeon does not have to be present if the LPM device is retrieved inside four weeks from the initial insertion.

**Descriptor:**

Leadless permanent cardiac pacemaker, single-chamber ventricular, percutaneous retrieval of, if:

- (a) the service is performed by a specialist or consultant physician who has undertaken training to perform the service; and
  - (b) if the service is performed at least 4 weeks after the pacemaker was inserted—the service is performed in a facility where cardiothoracic surgery is available and a thoracotomy can be performed immediately and without transfer; and
  - (c) if the service is performed by an interventional cardiologist at least 4 weeks after the pacemaker was inserted—a cardiothoracic surgeon is in attendance during the service
- (H) (Anaes.)

**Fee:** \$830.30 (no change)

**Benefit:** 75% = \$622.70

**Private Health Insurance Classification:**

- **Clinical category:** Heart and Vascular System
- **Procedure type:** Type A Surgical

To view previous item descriptors and deleted items, visit MBS Online at [www.mbsonline.gov.au](http://www.mbsonline.gov.au), navigate to 'Downloads' and then select the relevant time period at the bottom of the page. The old items can then be viewed by downloading the MBS files published in the month before implementation of the changes.

Please note that the information provided is a general guide only. It is ultimately the responsibility of treating practitioners to use their professional judgment to determine the most clinically appropriate services to provide, and then to ensure that any services billed to Medicare fully meet the eligibility requirements outlined in the legislation.

This sheet is current as of the Last updated date shown above and does not account for MBS changes since that date.