# Change to Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) Item 69471: Interferon Gamma Release Assay (IGRA)

Last updated: 21/06/2017

## What does the change involve?

IGRA is a pathology blood test for tuberculosis, providing testing of cell-mediated immunity in blood for the detection of latent tuberculosis. This change amends item 69471 to expand the eligible patient population.

## What are the patient eligibility requirements?

**Until the end of April 2017**, testing is available for immunosuppressed or immunocompromised patients only.

**From 1 May 2017**, testing will be available for the following groups of people:

a. a person who has been exposed to a confirmed case of active tuberculosis;

b. a person who is infected with human immunodeficiency virus;

c. a person who is to commence, or has commenced, tumour necrosis factor (TNF) inhibitor therapy;

d. a person who is to commence, or has commenced, renal dialysis;

e. a person with silicosis;

f. a person who is, or is about to become, immunosuppressed because of a disease, or a medical treatment, not mentioned in paragraphs a to e.

**Fee**: $34.90; **MBS benefit**: $75% = $26.20; 85% = $29.70

Further information will be provided in an explanatory note which will be published with the 1 May changes.

## Where does the procedure take place?

This procedure can be provided in a clinic or hospital.

## Relevant organisations

* Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine
* Australian Medical Association
* The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
* The Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia

## Find out more

For details of all the MBS changes from 1 May 2017, please refer to [Health Insurance Legislation Amendment (2017 Measures No. 1) Regulations 2017](https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2017L00312) (click on the ‘Explanatory Statement’ tab) or visit [MBS Online](http://www.mbsonline.gov.au/).