



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](#) (click on the 'Explanatory Statement' tab) or visit [MBS Online](#).