



# Listing for Transcatheter Mitral Valve repair using the MitraClip™ implant on the Medicare Benefits Schedule

Last updated: **24 May 2021**

- On **1 July 2021**, the Australian Government will introduce four new items for the provision of transcatheter mitral valve repair (TMVr) using the MitraClip™ implant for managing severe mitral valve regurgitation. Mitral valve regurgitation occurs when the heart's mitral valve doesn't close tightly and blood flows backward in the heart.
- Eligible patients, who are ineligible for open surgical management with moderate-severe mitral valve regurgitation will be able to receive a Medicare rebate for this less invasive approach through transcatheter repair using the MitraClip™ implant.
- This listing will support current best practice and reflect contemporary advancements in cardiac intervention for some of the most vulnerable people with heart disease.

---

## What are the changes?

From 1 July 2021, two distinct mitral valve regurgitation patient populations will have access to MBS rebates for TMVr when the MitraClip™ implant is utilised, as follows:

- **Item 38461** - degenerative (primary) moderate-severe mitral valve regurgitation deemed to be at high risk for surgical mitral valve replacement; or
- **Item 38463** - functional (secondary) moderate-severe mitral valve regurgitation deemed to be at high risk for surgical mitral valve replacement.

Two new attendance items will also be introduced for the purposes of determining a patient's eligibility for a TMVr service. This will provide for a case conference coordinator and attendance at a case conference as follows:

- **Item 6082** - attendance at a TMVr suitability case conference, by a cardiothoracic surgeon or an interventional cardiologist, to coordinate the conference.
- **Item 6084** - Attendance at a TMVr suitability case conference, by a specialist or consultant physician, other than to coordinate the conference.

## Why are the changes being made?

- The changes are the outcome of Government agreement to recommendations from the independent Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC). MSAC appraises medical services, health technologies and health programs for public funding through an assessment of their comparative safety, clinical effectiveness, cost effectiveness and total cost, using the best available evidence.



- The changes support current best practice and reflect contemporary advancements in cardiac intervention for some of the most vulnerable people with heart disease

The listing of this service was recommended by MSAC, further details about MSAC applications can be found under [MSAC Applications](#) on the MSAC website ([www.msac.gov.au](http://www.msac.gov.au)).

## What does this mean for providers?

These changes support contemporary best practice and allow providers to offer a less invasive surgical option (for those at high-risk or absolute contraindication to open surgery).

More detail will be provided to the profession in due course.

## How will these changes affect patients?

Patients who are unable to undergo open surgical mitral valve repair will benefit from access to a less invasive surgical alternative to optimal medical therapy (e.g. medication) that has not been previously available.

## Who was consulted on the changes?

The Department of Health has listed these items on the MBS in consultation with Cardiac Accreditation Services Limited.

## What is the role and function of the Cardiac Accreditation Services Limited ?

Cardiac Accreditation Services Limited, is responsible for developing the processes and criteria for the accreditation of TMVr Practitioners; the setting of minimum standards for TMVr Hospitals; and accrediting TMVr Practitioners.

Cardiac Accreditation Services Limited is comprised of representatives from the Australian & New Zealand Society of Cardiac & Thoracic Surgeons (ANZSCTS) and the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand (CSANZ).

## How will the changes be monitored and reviewed?

The new items will be subject to MBS compliance processes and activities, including audits, which may require a provider to submit evidence about the services claimed.

The Department of Health will monitor the use of the new MBS items by eligible providers. Use of the items that do not seem to be in accordance with the relevant Medicare guidelines will be actioned appropriately.

## Where can I find more information?

The full item descriptor(s) and information on other changes to the MBS can be found on the MBS Online website at [www.mbsonline.gov.au](http://www.mbsonline.gov.au). You can also subscribe to future MBS updates by visiting [MBS Online](#) and clicking 'Subscribe'.



The Department of Health provides an email advice service for providers seeking advice on interpretation of the MBS items and rules and the Health Insurance Act and associated regulations. If you have a query relating exclusively to interpretation of the Schedule, you should email [askMBS@health.gov.au](mailto:askMBS@health.gov.au).

Subscribe to '[News for Health Professionals](#)' on the Department of Human Services website and you will receive regular news highlights.

If you are seeking advice in relation to Medicare billing, claiming, payments, or obtaining a provider number, please go to the Health Professionals page on the Department of Human Services website or contact the Department of Human Services on the Provider Enquiry Line – 13 21 50.

*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.*