

Patient Episode Initiation (PEI) Fees for Tissue Pathology Item 72838, 72827 and 72828

New PEI items have been listed on the Pathology Services Table of the Medicare Benefits Schedule for tissue pathology items 72838, 72827 and 72828. In error these items were not included in the item descriptors for the specific tissue pathology PEIs, 73924, 73925, 73926 and 73927 or the bulk billing initiative items, 74993, 74994, and 74999. This omission resulted in claims for these items being rejected by Medicare from 30 October 2011 when claimed in association with tissue pathology items 72838, 72827 and 72828.

The Health Insurance (Patient Episode Initiation) Determination 2011 (No. 1) that was registered on the Federal Register of Legislative Instruments on 5 December 2011 has rectified this omission. The new items and other changes are retrospective for claims that have not been processed and benefits paid prior to this date.

The following table reflects the new PEI items to be claimed in association with the tissue pathology items and the period for which they are applicable.

PEI association with items 72827, 72828 and 72838 from 1 November 2008.

PEI	Payable per patient episode when associated with	Bulk billing incentive item from 1/11/09
73914	72827, 72828, 72838 for an in-patient of a private hospital	74994
73916	72827, 72828, 72838 for a private in-patient of a public hospital or an in-patient of a private hospital and the service is provided by a public pathology laboratory	74999
73918	72827, 72828, 72838 for private laboratory	74993
73919	72827, 72828, 72838 for public laboratory	74999

PEI association with item 72838 from 1 November 2007 until 31 October 2008

PEI	Conditions
73902	In-patient of a private hospital
73904	Private in-patient of a public hospital or In-patient of a private hospital and the service is provided by a public pathology laboratory
73906	Patient is not an admitted patient of a private or public hospital and the service is provided in a private pathology laboratory
73908	Patient is not an admitted patient of a private or public hospital and the service is provided in a public pathology laboratory