# Summary of New Items – Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (rTMS) Therapy

Last updated: 29 October 2021

* Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (rTMS) is a form of localised brain stimulation therapy used to treat depression. The therapy involves using a magnet to target and stimulate the region of the brain involved in mood regulation and depression. rTMS is a non-invasive form of therapy that does not require sedation with anaesthesia.
* From 1 November 2021, rTMS therapy will be listed on the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) under new items 14216, 14217, 14219 and 14220 for the treatment of major depressive disorder.
* The Australian Government announced this new listing in the 2021-22 Budget with an investment of $288.5 million over four years, following recommendations of the Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC).
* Previously, rTMS was not subsidised on the MBS.
* The information in this document should be read in conjunction with the Fact Sheets, Explanatory Notes, and other information available on the MBS Online website ([www.mbsonline.gov.au](http://www.mbsonline.gov.au)).

The item descriptors and MBS schedule fees and benefits for the new items are set out below.

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| **Cagegory 3 – Therapeutic Procedures** | | |
| **Group 1 – Miscellaneous Therapeutic Procedures** | | |
| **Subgroup 13 – Other Therapeutic Procedures** | | |
| **Item** | **Description** | **MBS Schedule Fee ($)** |
| 14216 | Professional attendance on a patient by a psychiatrist, who has undertaken training in Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (rTMS), for treatment mapping for rTMS, if the patient:  (a) has not previously received any prior transcranial magnetic stimulation therapy in a public or private setting; and  (b) is at least 18 years old; and  (c) is diagnosed with a major depressive episode; and  (d) has failed to receive satisfactory improvement for the major depressive episode despite the adequate trialling of at least 2 different classes of antidepressant medications, unless contraindicated, and all of the following apply:  (i) the patient’s adherence to antidepressant treatment has been formally assessed;  (ii) the trialling of each antidepressant medication has been at the recommended therapeutic dose for a minimum of 3 weeks;  (iii) where clinically appropriate, the treatment has been titrated to the maximum tolerated therapeutic dose; and  (e) has undertaken psychological therapy, if clinically appropriate  *MBS Benefit:**75% = $139.80 85% = $158.45* | 186.40 |
| 14217 | Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (rTMS) treatment of up to 35 services provided by, or on behalf of, a psychiatrist who has undertaken training in rTMS, if the patient has previously received a service under item 14216—each service up to 35 services  *MBS Benefit****:*** *75% = $120.00 85% = $136.00* | 160.00 |
| 14219 | Professional attendance on a patient by a psychiatrist, who has undertaken training in Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (rTMS), for treatment mapping for rTMS, if the patient:  (a) is at least 18 years old; and  (b) is diagnosed with a major depressive episode; and  (c) has failed to receive satisfactory improvement for the major depressive episode despite the adequate trialling of at least 2 different classes of antidepressant medications, unless contraindicated, and all of the following apply:  (i) the patient’s adherence to antidepressant treatment has been formally assessed;  (ii) the trialling of each antidepressant medication has been at the recommended therapeutic dose for a minimum of 3 weeks;  (iii) where clinically appropriate, the treatment has been titrated to the maximum tolerated therapeutic dose; and  (d) has undertaken psychological therapy, if clinically appropriate; and  (e) has previously received an initial service under item 14217 and the patient:  (i) has relapsed after a remission following the initial service; and  (ii) has had a satisfactory clinical response to the service under item 14217 (which has been assessed by a validated major depressive disorder tool at least 4 months after receiving that service)  *MBS Benefit: 75% = $139.80 85% = $158.45* | 186.40 |
| 14220 | Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (rTMS) treatment of up to 15 services provided by, or on behalf of, a psychiatrist who has undertaken training in rTMS, if the patient has previously received:  (a) a service under item 14217 (which was not provided in the previous 4 months); and  (b) a service under item 14219  Each service up to 15 services  *MBS Benefit: 75% = $120.00 85% = $136.00* | 160.00 |

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