



# Amendment to pathology MBS item 72814 for Programmed Cell Death Ligand (PD-L1) testing

Last updated: 20 September 2022

## What are the changes?

From 1 October 2022, MBS item 72814 for PD-L1 immunohistochemistry testing of tumour material from a patient diagnosed with non-small cell lung cancer, will be amended to include testing of tumour material from a patient diagnosed with recurrent or metastatic squamous cell carcinoma of the oral cavity, pharynx or larynx.

The amendment will enable Medicare benefits to be paid for PD-L1 immunohistochemistry testing of tumour material from a patient diagnosed with recurrent or metastatic squamous cell carcinoma of the oral cavity, pharynx or larynx.

For private health insurance purposes, item 72814 will continue to be listed under the following clinical category and procedure type:

- Clinical category: Support list (pathology)
- Procedure type: Type C

## Why are the changes being made?

Immunohistochemistry testing in tumours is a way for doctors to know whether a certain protein, such as PD-L1, is present in some tumours and how much of the protein is there.

At its November 2021 meeting, the Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC) supported amending MBS item 72814 to include PD-L1 immunohistochemistry testing for patients with recurrent or metastatic squamous cell carcinoma of the oral cavity, pharynx or larynx (MSAC application 1522.1) to determine a patient's suitability for treatment with Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) listed pembrolizumab.

## What does this mean for requestors and providers?

Medical practitioners will be able to request MBS funded PD-L1 immunohistochemistry testing for patients diagnosed with recurrent or metastatic squamous cell carcinoma of the oral cavity, pharynx or larynx.

To be eligible for Medicare rebates, laboratories providing this service must be accredited according to the pathology accreditation standards specified in the [Health Insurance \(Accredited Pathology Laboratories-Approval\) Principles 2017](#).

## How will these changes affect patients?

The changes will enable patients diagnosed with recurrent or metastatic squamous cell carcinoma of the oral cavity, pharynx or larynx to receive Medicare benefits for PD-L1 immunohistochemistry testing.

## Amended item descriptor (effective from 1 October 2022) (amendment in red text)

**Item:** 72814

**Descriptor:** Immunohistochemical examination by immunoperoxidase or other labelled antibody techniques using the programmed cell death ligand 1 (PD-L1) antibody of tumour material from a patient diagnosed with non-small cell lung cancer **or recurrent or metastatic squamous cell carcinoma of the oral cavity, pharynx or larynx.**

**Fee:** \$74.50 **Benefit:** 75% = \$55.90 85% = \$63.35

## How will the changes be monitored and reviewed?

All MBS items are subject to compliance processes and activities, including random and targeted audits which may require a provider to submit evidence about the services claimed.

## Where can I find more information?

The current 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) with this amendment becoming available on 1 October 2022. You can also subscribe to future updates by visiting [MBS Online](#) and clicking 'Subscribe'.

The Department of Health and Aged Care provides an email advice service for providers seeking advice on interpretation of the MBS items and rules and the *Health Insurance Act 1973* and associated regulations. If you have a query relating exclusively to interpretation of the Schedule, or to this amendment, please email [askMBS@health.gov.au](mailto:askMBS@health.gov.au).

Subscribe to '[News for Health Professionals](#)' on the Services Australia website to 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 Services Australia website or contact Services Australia on the Provider Enquiry Line – 13 21 50.

The data file for software vendors will be available via the MBS Online website under the [Downloads](#) page.

*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.*