



## Quick Reference Guide:

### Amended item for cardiothoracic surgery

**Date of change:** 1 March 2024

**Amended item:** 38557

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### Revised structure

- From 1 March 2024, Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) item 38557 for complex replacement or repair of aortic arch will be amended to remove item associations with the ascending aortic items.
- The amendment will allow item 38557 to be performed in conjunction with items 38550, 38553, 38554, 38556, 38558 or 38571 by any medical practitioner. This will allow two surgeons to complete separate components of complex aortic procedures and allow individual claiming of the items.
- This amendment was requested by The Australian and New Zealand Society of Cardiac and Thoracic Surgeons and supported by the Medical Services Advisory Committee Executive in December 2022. This measure was approved for funding on the MBS in the 2023-24 Budget.
- Billing practices from 1 March 2024 will need to be adjusted to reflect these changes.

### Patient impacts

- This change supports high value care and ensures patient safety. This change reflects modern clinical practice and will ensure patients receive a Medicare benefit for this service when clinically appropriate.

### Restrictions or requirements

- This service must be performed in conjunction with a service to which item 38550, 38553, 38554, 38556, 38568 or 38571 applies.
- This service must not be claimed with a service to which item 11704, 11705, 11707, 11714, 18260, 33824, 38816, 38828 or 45503.
- This procedure is only appropriate to be performed in the in-hospital setting (benefit 75%).
- Providers are responsible for ensuring services claimed from Medicare using their provider number meet all legislative requirements. These changes are subject to MBS compliance checks and providers may be required to submit evidence about the services claimed.



## Amended item 38557 – complex replacement or repair of aortic arch

**Overview:** This item has been amended to allow the service to be performed by any medical practitioner.

**Descriptor:**

Complex replacement or repair of aortic arch, performed in conjunction with a service performed by any medical practitioner to which item 38550, 38553, 38554, 38556, 38568 or 38571 applies, including:

- (a) debranching and reimplantation of head and neck vessels; and
- (b) deep hypothermic circulatory arrest; and
- (c) peripheral cannulation for cardiopulmonary bypass; and
- (d) antegrade or retrograde cerebral perfusion (if performed);

other than a service associated with a service to which item 11704, 11705, 11707, 11714, 18260, 33824, 38816, 38828 or 45503 applies

(H) (Anaes.) (Assist.)

**MBS fee:** \$4,760.30

**Benefit:** 75% = \$3,570.22

**Private Health Insurance Classification:**

- **Clinical category:** Heart and Vascular system
- **Private Health Insurance procedure type:** Type A Advanced surgical

To view previous item descriptors and deleted items, visit MBS Online at [www.mbsonline.gov.au](http://www.mbsonline.gov.au), navigate to 'Downloads' and then select the relevant time period at the bottom of the page. The old items can then be viewed by downloading the MBS files published in the month before implementation of the changes.

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.