



Australian Government
Department of Health

Mr John Batten
President
Royal Australasian College of Surgeons
college.sec@surgeons.org

Dear Mr Batten

Implementation of colonoscopy item changes

I am writing regarding a change to the 1 March 2018 commencement date for new colonoscopy items and to advise you that the existing MBS items (32090 and 32093) should be used until further notice. This will ensure patients continue to have access to Medicare-funded colonoscopy services.

As you are aware, changes to MBS items for colonoscopy were announced in August 2017, to take effect from 1 March 2018. These changes responded to recommendations of the MBS Reviews Taskforce to ensure that patients continue to have access to high quality, clinically relevant and sustainable Medicare-funded colonoscopy services through a new suite of (20) items.

The changes recognise that clinical practice and professional standards have shifted over time and the new items were designed to be well supported by the NHMRC *Clinical Guidelines for Surveillance Colonoscopy*. These guidelines are currently being revised and are anticipated to be released in late 2018.

The Government remains committed to an improved suite of colonoscopy items and to ensure as smooth a transition to the new arrangements as possible, the MBS Review Taskforce has been invited to provide further advice.

I appreciate the time stakeholders have taken to provide feedback on this change and I encourage you and your members to provide further input to:
MBSColonoscopy@health.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Natasha Ryan'.

Natasha Ryan
Assistant Secretary
MBS Policy & Specialist Services Branch
Medical Benefits Division

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