



# Removal of Botulinum toxin from item 32150

Last updated: 26 May 2026

- From **1 July 2026** item 32150 is being amended to remove the reference to the injection of botulinum toxin as a treatment for anal fissure. This will undo a change made on 1 July 2022 and remove an inconsistency from Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS).
- Colorectal surgeons are the relevant health practitioners who will be affected by this change.

## What are the changes?

From **1 July 2026**, the words “injection of Botulinum toxin” will be removed from item 32150.

For private health insurance purposes, item 32150 will continue to be listed under the following clinical category and procedure type:

- Private Health Insurance Classification:
  - Clinical category: Digestive system
  - Procedure type: Type B Non-band specific

## Why are the changes being made?

- Item 32150 was initially amended on 1 July 2022 to include the injection of botulinum toxin, based on a recommendation from the MBS Review Taskforce, informed by its Colorectal Surgery Clinical Committee, as the committee considered it an accepted form of treatment for anal fissure.
- Item 32150 is now being amended to remove the reference to the injection of botulinum toxin as there are no botulinum toxins listed on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG) with an approval for the treatment of anal fissure.
- Use of botulinum toxin for purposes outside of an approved ARTG listing is considered ‘off-label’ prescribing. Off-label prescribing means that the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has not approved the indication, route of administration or patient group. It does not mean that the TGA has rejected the indication. Commonly the TGA has not been asked to evaluate the indication.
- Botulinum toxins can be prescribed and used off label, but this is not an MBS eligible service.

## What does this mean for providers and other stakeholders?

- The decision to use a medicine off-label is a clinical decision made at the discretion of the prescriber who is responsible for obtaining informed consent from a patient. Practitioners can continue to prescribe and utilise botulinum toxin off label.

- Item 32150 will continue to provide an MBS benefit for surgical procedures for the management of anal fissure, including excision or sphincterotomy.
- Practitioners will no longer be able to provide botulinum toxin injections as part of the service for item 32150 and therefore patients will no longer be able to receive the injection as part of the service for that item.
- MBS items, including 104 and 105, support personal attendance of a medical practitioner upon the patient, both in and out of hospital, when clinically relevant services are provided.

## How will these changes affect patients?

Effective 1 July 2026, the Australian Government is changing the descriptor for item 32150. The change ensures that botulinum toxin is funded in line with ARTG listings, promoting greater safety for patients, leading to improved health outcomes. Patients will receive Medicare benefits for colorectal surgery services that are clinically appropriate.

## Who was consulted on the changes?

The Colorectal Surgical Society of Australia and New Zealand was consulted on the change.

## How will the changes be monitored and reviewed?

Providers are responsible for ensuring Medicare services claimed using their provider number meet all legislative requirements. All Medicare claiming is subject to compliance checks and providers may be required to submit evidence about the services they bill. More information about the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing's (the department's) compliance program can be found on its website at [Medicare compliance](#).

## Where can I find more information?

The full item descriptor(s) and information on other changes to the MBS can be found on the [MBS Online website](#). You can also subscribe to future MBS updates by visiting '[Subscribe to the MBS](#)' on the MBS Online website.

Providers seeking advice on interpretation of MBS items, explanatory notes and associated legislation can use the department's email advice service by emailing [askMBS@health.gov.au](mailto:askMBS@health.gov.au).

Private health insurance information on the product tier arrangements is available at [www.privatehealth.gov.au](http://www.privatehealth.gov.au). Detailed information on the MBS item listing within clinical categories is available on the [department's website](#). Private health insurance minimum accommodation benefits information, including MBS item accommodation classification, is available in the latest version of the *Private Health Insurance (Benefit Requirements) Rules 2011* found on the [Federal Register of Legislation](#). If you have a query in relation to private health insurance, you should email [PHI@health.gov.au](mailto:PHI@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 when available can be accessed via the [Downloads](#) page.

## Amended item descriptors (to take effect 1 July 2026)

### Category 3 – THERAPEUTIC PROCEDURES

#### Group T8 – Surgical Operations

#### Subgroup 2 - Colorectal

32150

Operation for anal fissure, including excision, ~~injection of Botulinum toxin~~ or sphincterotomy, excluding dilatation (H)

Private Health Insurance Classification:

- Clinical category: Digestive system
- Procedure type: Type B Non-band specific

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 factsheet is current as of the 'Last updated' date shown above and does not account for MBS changes since that date.