



# New MBS item 30175 for abdominoplasty

Last updated: 29 March 2022

- From 1 July 2022, a new Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) item will be created for radical abdominoplasty with repair of rectus diastasis (separation of the large abdominal muscles) where the patient has an abdominal wall defect because of pregnancy.
- This change is relevant for plastic and reconstructive surgeons and general surgeons.
- This new item will benefit a small subset of patients who have a diastasis of at least 3cm measured by diagnostic imaging prior to this service.

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## What are the changes?

From 1 July 2022, there will be a new MBS item (30175) for radical abdominoplasty with repair of rectus diastasis (separation of the large abdominal muscles) following pregnancy. The new item descriptor is on page 2 of this factsheet.

## Why are the changes being made?

The listing of this service was recommended by the Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC) in July 2021. Further details about MSAC applications can be found under [MSAC Applications](#) on the MSAC website ([www.msac.gov.au](http://www.msac.gov.au)).

## What does this mean for providers?

Providers will benefit from having access to a new MBS item for patients requiring surgical repair of rectus diastasis (separation of the large abdominal muscles) following pregnancy.

## How will these changes affect patients?

This new item will benefit a small subset of patients who have a diastasis of at least 3cm measured by diagnostic imaging prior to this service with moderate severity of pain or discomfort at the site of the diastasis in the abdominal wall during functional use and/or lower back pain or urinary symptoms and who have failed to respond to non-surgical conservative treatment, including physiotherapy.

This change will provide greater access for patients, leading to improved health outcomes, while providing Medicare rebates for services that are clinically appropriate and reflect modern clinical practice.



## Who was consulted on the changes?

Consultation has been undertaken with key stakeholders, clinical experts and providers, and consumer health representatives as part of the MSAC process.

The MSAC recommendation to create a new item was endorsed by the Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons and the National Association of Specialist Obstetricians & Gynaecologists.

## How will the changes be monitored and reviewed?

MBS item 30175 will continue to be subject to MBS compliance processes and activities, including random and targeted audits which may require a provider to submit information about the services claimed.

## Item Descriptor

30175	<p>Radical abdominoplasty, with repair of rectus diastasis, excision of skin and subcutaneous tissue, and transposition of umbilicus, not being a laparoscopic procedure, where the patient has an abdominal wall defect as a consequence of pregnancy, if:</p> <p>(a) the patient:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(i) has a diastasis of at least 3cm measured by diagnostic imaging prior to this service; and</li><li>(ii) has symptoms of at least moderate severity of pain or discomfort at the site of the diastasis in the abdominal wall during functional use and/or low back pain or urinary symptoms likely due to rectus diastasis that have been documented in the patient's records by the practitioner providing this service; and</li><li>(iii) has failed to respond to non-surgical conservative treatment including physiotherapy; and</li><li>(iv) has not been pregnant in the last 12 months</li></ul> <p>(b) the service is not a service associated with a service to which item 30165, 30651, 30655, 30168, 30171, 30172, 30176, 30177, 30179, 45530, 45564 or 45565 applies</p> <p>Applicable once per lifetime</p> <p>(H) (Anaes.) (Assist.)</p> <p>Fee: \$1025.60 Benefit: 75% = \$769.20</p>
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## 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 at [Medicare Benefits Schedule Online](#). You can also subscribe to future MBS updates by visiting [MBS Online](#) and clicking 'Subscribe'.



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

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

The data file for software vendors is available and can be accessed 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.*