

# Medicare Benefits Schedule Changes – 1 July 2021

MBS changes effective on or after 1 July 2021



Australian Government  
Department of Health

[www.health.gov.au](http://www.health.gov.au)

# Introduction

Presenter:

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Orthopaedic Clinical Committee



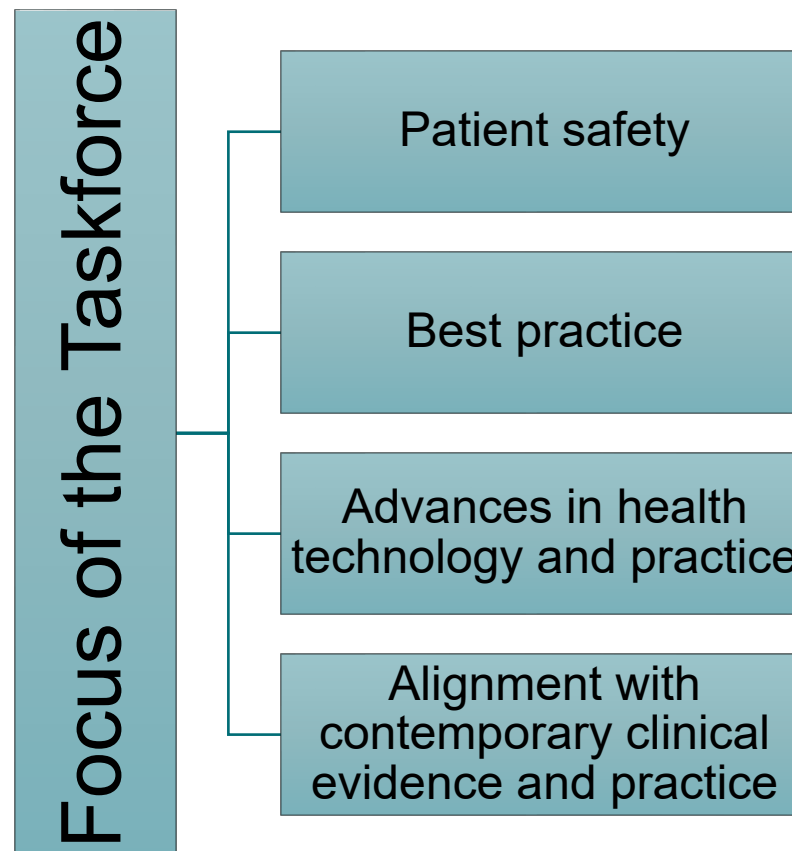
# Achieving a modern and sustainable Medicare

- ✓ The MBS supports the delivery of over 400 million health services a year.
- ✓ Over the next 4 years the MBS will outlay over \$100 billion.
- ✓ A modern and sustainable Medicare program must support access to high-quality, appropriate and effective services.
- ✓ It must also support services that reflect current clinical evidence and contemporary best medical practice.



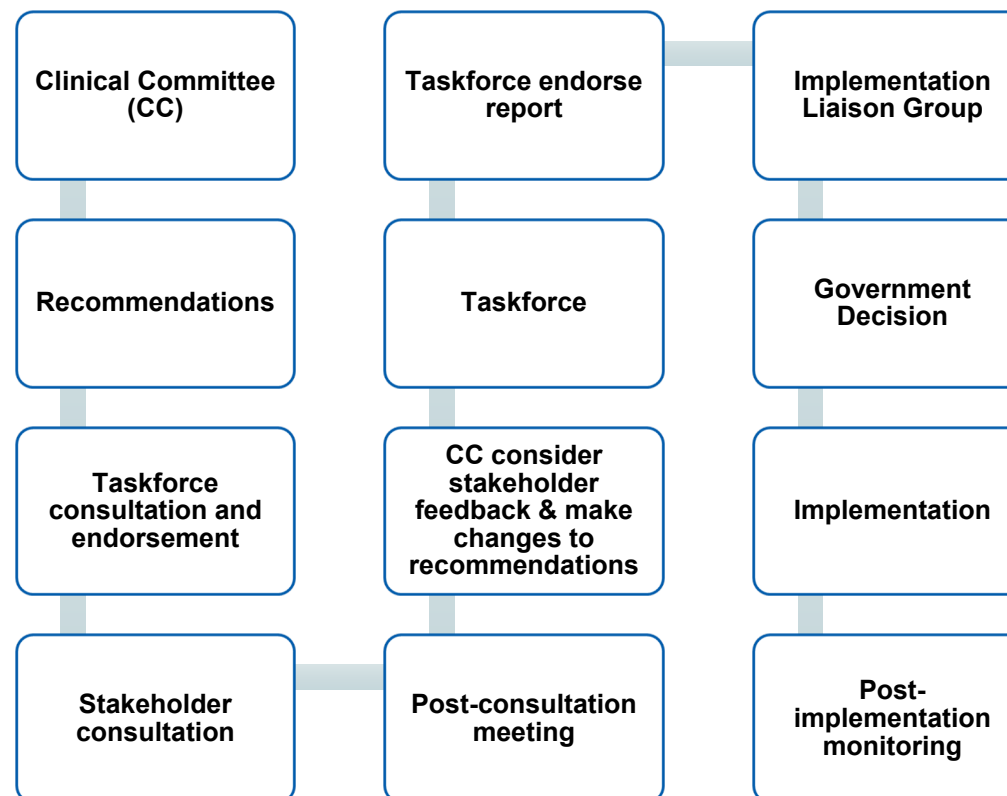
# The MBS Review

- The MBS Review Taskforce was established in 2015.
  - ✓ Chaired by Professor Bruce Robinson
  - ✓ Includes over 70 Clinical Committees
  - ✓ Informed by over 700 independent clinicians, consumers and health system experts
  - ✓ Has reviewed more than 5,700 MBS items
  - ✓ Made over 1300 recommendations, that will change the majority of items on the Schedule
  - ✓ Amended, deleted, consolidated and added services



# The MBS Review

- Reviewing and implementing changes to different MBS specialties, can take up to 3 years
  - ✓ To date, the Government has accepted and implemented approximately 350 recommendations changing over 1200 items
- 5 phases of activity
  - ✓ Initial Review
  - ✓ Consultation
  - ✓ Consideration by Government
  - ✓ **Implementation**
  - ✓ Evaluation



# The MBS Review Process

- ✓ Evaluation of orthopaedic MBS items by an expert Clinical Committee.
- ✓ Review by seven sub-specialty working groups: Knee, Hand and Wrist, Shoulder and Elbow, Hip, Foot and Ankle, Paediatric and Oncology.
- ✓ Assessment of draft recommendations by the MBS Review Taskforce - Chaired by Professor Bruce Robinson.
- ✓ MBS Review Taskforce Final Report released for public consultation and Government review.



# The MBS Review Process

- ✓ Government endorsement of recommendations.
- ✓ Implementation Liaison Groups (ILG) established to support the implementation of final recommendations.
- ✓ MBS updated to reflect the new, amended and deleted items considered as part of the review.
- ✓ Evaluation and review of implemented changes (ongoing)



# Orthopaedic Surgery MBS Review – Stakeholder Consultation

- Stakeholder consultation has been an integral part of the MBS Reviews process.
- Targeted consultation on the proposed Orthopaedic Clinical Committee recommendations was conducted from 19 October 2018 to 30 November 2018.
- Feedback was received from various stakeholders, including:
  - Australian Orthopaedic Association
  - Australian Society of Orthopaedic Surgeons
  - Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons
  - Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery MBS Reviews Taskforce Clinical Committee
  - Royal Australian and New Zealand College of General Practitioners
  - Australian Rheumatology Association
  - Australasian College of Sports & Exercise Medicine
  - Australian Diagnostic Imaging Association
  - Australian Medical Association
  - Australian Private Hospitals Association
  - Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists





# Orthopaedic Surgery MBS Review – Implementation Liaison Group

- The Department of Health has worked with relevant stakeholders through the Orthopaedic Surgery Implementation Liaison Group (OSILG) to support an integrated approach to the implementation of changes to the MBS orthopaedic surgery items resulting from the MBS Review.
- The OSILG provided advice on the wording of item descriptors and explanatory notes and any unintended consequences of the changes, while maintaining the principles of the MBS Review recommendations.
- The OSILG members included representatives of orthopaedic sub-specialty, surgical assistant and plastic surgery organisations, the Australian Medical Association, the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and private hospital and private health insurance organisations.

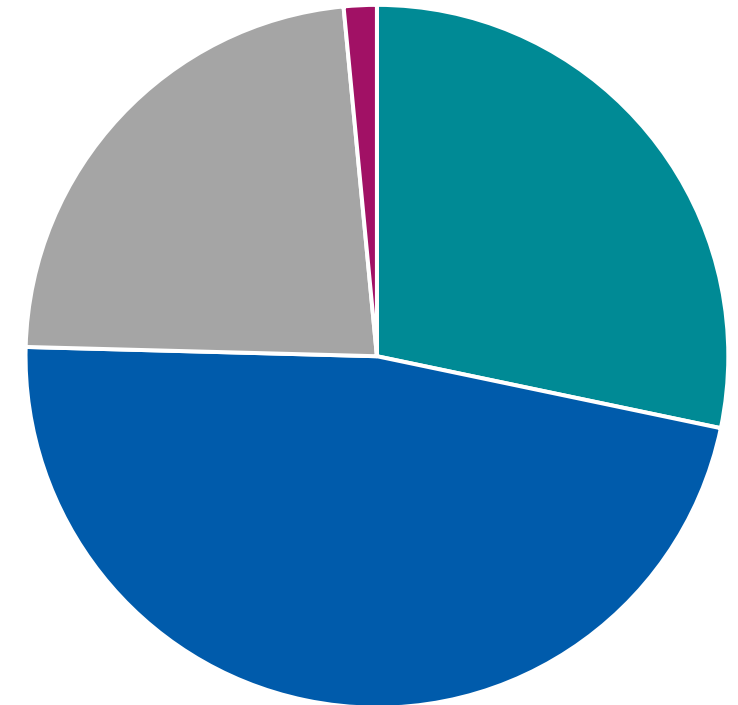


# Summary of orthopaedic changes

- **168 new items** that represent complete medical services and consolidate existing items to simplify the MBS
- **280 amended items** to ensure services better reflect contemporary best practice
- **137 superseded items** where services have been consolidated into new or amended items
- **9 deleted items** where items are obsolete or no longer reflect clinical best practice.
- Amendments include changes to
  - Item descriptors
  - Existing explanatory notes
  - Schedule fees
  - Private Health Insurance classifications

## Item Changes

■ New ■ Amended ■ Superseded ■ Deleted



# Orthopaedic Surgery MBS Item Mapping

- A mapping document which details the changes to the orthopaedic surgery MBS items, including existing items and all amended items, will be available on MBS Online at: [www.mbsonline.gov.au](http://www.mbsonline.gov.au).
- The document lists all items under the relevant MBS Group and Subgroup, with amendments clearly marked in red text. Each amended item references the corresponding page of the Orthopaedic Surgery MBS Review Taskforce Report, where further information is available for each Taskforce recommendation.
- The 2019 MBS Reviews Taskforce Report is available at: <https://www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/MBSR-closed-consult>
- Some item descriptors may differ from the Taskforce Report recommendations. These items were considered by the Orthopaedic Surgery Implementation Liaison Group and amended to avoid any unintended consequences or service gaps.
- Note that the item descriptors are subject to legislative drafting and finalisation by the Office of Parliamentary Counsel. Some minor word changing may occur but will not alter the clinical intent.
- An example page from the mapping document is provided on the following slide, with notes explaining the structure of the document.



**Headings row.**

Indicates the proposed item location.

**Item number column.**

The MBS item number for each descriptor can be found here.

**Item descriptor column.**

Sets out the new, amended or deleted item descriptor.

<b>MBS Group T8—Surgical operations</b>		
<b>Item</b>		<b>Taskforce Report Reference</b>
<b>MBS Subgroup 15—Orthopaedic</b>		
47049	Treatment of prosthetic dislocation of hip by open reduction. (Anaes.) (Assist.)	Item consolidates services under item 47051 p. 176
<del>47051</del>	<del>Hip, treatment of dislocation of, by open reduction (H) (Anaes.) (Assist.)</del>	Item deleted and consolidated under item 47049 p. 176
47053	Treatment of native hip dislocation by open reduction. Inclusive of internal fixation, if performed. (Anaes.) (Assist.)	Item consolidates services under item 47051 p. 176
47054	<del>Knee, †</del> Treatment of dislocation of knee, by closed reduction. Inclusive of application of external fixator, if performed. (Anaes.) (Assist.)	p. 70
47060	Patella, treatment of dislocation of, by open reduction (Anaes.) (Assist.)	p. 70

**Taskforce Report Reference column.**

The page of the associated Taskforce Report recommendation can be found here.

**New items.**

Are shown in red.

**Deleted items.**

Are shown in red strikethrough.

**Amended items.**

Where words have been removed from a descriptor, this will be indicated in red strikethrough

Where words have been added to a descriptor, this will be indicated in red.

Where words remain the same, this will be indicated in black.

**Mapping information.**

Where an item consolidates an existing service or has been superseded by a new or amended service, this will be indicated here in the column 'Taskforce Report Reference'.

# Upcoming webinars

A series of webinars summarising sub-specialty specific changes to the orthopaedic surgery schedule will be made available between February and June 2021, for:

- General items (bone grafting, neurosurgical, amputations)
- Foot and Ankle
- Hand and Wrist
- Hip
- Knee
- Shoulder and Elbow

The webinars will be available on the [MBS Online](#) website by searching 'Orthopaedic Webinars'. Stakeholders will be notified as each webinar is uploaded to the website.



# Enquiries and further information

- ✓ For questions relating to implementation, or to the interpretation of the new orthopaedic surgery MBS items prior to 1 July 2021, please email [1july2021MBSchanges.orthopaedics@health.gov.au](mailto:1july2021MBSchanges.orthopaedics@health.gov.au).
- ✓ If you have a query relating exclusively to interpretation of the Schedule after it is implemented on 1 July 2021, you should email [askMBS@health.gov.au](mailto:askMBS@health.gov.au).
- ✓ A complete list of all items in the presentation and their fees will be made available on MBS Online at: [www.mbsonline.gov.au](http://www.mbsonline.gov.au)
- ✓ You can also subscribe to future MBS updates including any upcoming webinars, by visiting MBS Online and clicking 'Subscribe'.

