



MELBOURNE
PATHOLOGY

Quality is in our DNA

Medicare criteria requirements for rebate



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Most pathology tests automatically qualify for a Medicare rebate; however, for some tests, Medicare requires that the patient satisfy certain clinical criteria before the rebate applies, or limits the frequency of testing, or both. Some tests do not qualify for a rebate under any circumstances.

Please note that this list is not comprehensive. A large number of specialised tests in the general areas of metabolic and molecular genetic testing, occupational health and environmental and nutritional testing, are not included.

For a list of all tests, visit www.mbsonline.gov.au

Test	Rule
Antithrombin III	<p>Clinical notes must contain either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a personal proven history of venous thromboembolism (VTE), or this proven defect found in a first-degree relative investigated for VTE
APC Resistance	<p>Clinical notes must contain either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a personal proven history of venous thromboembolism (VTE), or this proven defect found in a first-degree relative investigated for VTE
Brain Natriuretic (BNP)	Rebate only available for the diagnosis of heart failure with dyspnoea when ordered from a hospital Emergency Department
Bile Acids	3 tests per pregnancy
Cardiac Markers	1 - 2 tests per 24 hour period
Cervical Screening Test (CST) - HPVPCR +/- cytology	<p>Non-rebatable fee of \$65, if performed more frequently than - or outside of - the guidelines, or outside the age range.</p> <p>Liquid based sample collected in to a ThinPrep® vial:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Routine asymptomatic CST - 1 test/57months when >24years and 9months of age Follow up CST - For follow-up of treated high grade abnormalities, recent LSIL or HPV detected or DES exposure Symptomatic CST - Co-test (HPV+LBC) at any time Self-collected CST - When >30years of age and asymptomatic in underscreened or never screened women (limited to one/7years)
Cu, Zn, Mn, Se	3 tests per 6 months
Cystic Fibrosis	<p>Government funded only under the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> if the test is a diagnostic test (ie. the patient has symptoms suggestive of Cystic Fibrosis) and parents of the index case Testing of all other patients including wider family testing, carrier testing and patients undergoing IVF or donating eggs or sperm will be billed a non-rebatable fee
Eosinophil Cationic Protein (ECP)	<p>For monitoring the response to therapy in corticosteroid treated asthma:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 tests per 12 months Rebate only available for children under 12 years of age
Factor V Leiden PCR	<p>Clinical notes must contain either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a personal proven history of DVT/PE in patient, or a first-degree relative with proven presence of this mutation
Faecal Occult Bloods	Exception is a maximum of 3 examinations on specimens collected on separate days in a 28 day period
Faeces Culture	1 test per 7 day period
Faeces Ova, Cysts and Parasites	2 tests per 7 day period
First Trimester Screen	1 test per pregnancy
Fragile X Gene Test - (see also Preconception Carrier Screen)	<p>Patient:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> exhibits one or more of the clinical features of fragile X (A) syndrome, including intellectual disabilities, or has a relative with a fragile X (A) mutation <p>If Cystic Fibrosis (CF) and Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) are also requested, the fee is \$400</p>
Free T4 or Free T3	<p>Rebate only applies if any of the following criteria are written in the clinical notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TSH is abnormal Monitoring thyroid disease Psychiatric investigations or dementia Infertility investigation or amenorrhoea Pituitary dysfunction suspected On drugs interfering with thyroid function
Fructosamine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patient has established diabetes 4 tests per 12 months
Haemochromatosis Gene Test	<p>Patient has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> elevated transferrin saturation or elevated serum ferritin on testing of repeated specimens, or a first-degree relative with haemochromatosis, or a first-degree relative with homozygosity for the C282Y genetic mutation, or with compound heterozygosity for recognised genetic mutations for haemochromatosis



Test	Rule
Hepatitis B virus DNA - quantitative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 test in 12 months if Hep B carrier and not on treatment 4 tests in 12 months if Hep B carrier and on treatment
Hepatitis C Qualitative PCR for diagnosis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patient is Hepatitis C antibody positive Patient is Hepatitis C antibody status indeterminate To determine Hepatitis status in immunosuppressed/immunocompromised Detection of acute Hepatitis C prior to seroconversion when necessary for patient management (maximum 1 test per 12 months)
Hepatitis C Quantitative PCR for treatment monitoring (viral load)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patient undertaking antiviral therapy for Hepatitis C (maximum 4 tests per 12 months) or Assessment of efficacy of antiviral therapy (1 - 2 tests per 12 months) AND test advised by specialist who manages treatment of the patient's hepatitis (maximum 2 test per 12 months)
Hepatitis C Qualitative PCR	Pre-treatment evaluation for antiviral therapy for chronic Hepatitis C (1 only per 12 month period)
Hepatitis C Genotype	Patient is Hepatitis C PCR positive AND being evaluated for antiviral therapy for chronic Hepatitis C AND test advised by specialist who manages treatment of the patient's hepatitis (maximum 1 test per 12 months)
HbA1c	Can be used for the diagnosis of diabetes in asymptomatic patients at high risk (1 per 12 months). 4 tests per 12 months for monitoring of diabetes.
HbA1c in Pregnancy	6 tests per 12 months
Holo-transcobalamin (active B12)	Can be measured in people with low or equivocal vitamin B12 results
IgE	2 tests per 12 months
Lead	3 tests per 6 months
Lipoprotein EPG	2 tests per 12 months
Microarray	Rebate available for diagnostic studies for a person with developmental delay, intellectual disability, autism or at least 2 congenital abnormalities
MTHFR (Methylene Tetrahydrofolate Reductase) Gene Test	<p>Clinical notes must contain either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a personal proven history of venous thromboembolism (VTE), or this proven defect found in a first-degree relative investigated for VTE
Preconception Carrier Screen	<p>Non-rebatable fee of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$400 for Cystic Fibrosis (CF) + Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) + Fragile X Syndrome (FXS), or CF + SMA, or CF + FXS \$220 SMA only \$200 CF only (unless criteria is met - see Cystic Fibrosis) \$101.30 FXS only (unless criteria is met - see Fragile X Gene Test)
Protein EPG	1 test per 28 day period
Protein C&S	<p>Clinical notes must contain either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a personal proven history of venous thromboembolism (VTE), or this proven defect found in a first-degree relative investigated for VTE
Prothrombin Gene Mutation (20210) PCR	<p>Clinical notes must contain either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a personal proven history of venous thromboembolism (VTE), or this proven defect found in a first-degree relative investigated for VTE
PSA-Total (diagnosed prostatic disease)	No limit
PSA-Total (screening)	1 test per 12 months
PSA-Free/Total Ratio	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 test per 12 months if total PSA is above the age related median but below upper reference limit 4 tests per 12 months if total PSA is above upper reference limit but below 10 ug/L per year
Quantiferon TB Gold	<p>Rebate only applies if any of the following criteria are written in the clinical notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ankylosing spondilitis Treatment with Methotrexate A person who has been exposed to a confirmed case of active Tuberculosis A person who is infected with HIV A person who is to commence or has commenced tumour necrosis factor (TNF) inhibitor therapy A person who is to commence renal dialysis A person with silicosis A person who is, or is about to become, immunocompromised due to a disease or medical treatment

Test	Rule
RAST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 requests of a maximum of 4 allergens per 12 months, performed on separately collected blood with each episode at least 14 days apart A maximum of 4 RAST tests may be ordered at any one time
Serum Folate	Should be tested in people at risk of folate deficiency (eg. malabsorption, coeliac disease or macrocytosis)
Thyroid Function Tests (TFT)	For both TSH and/or FT4, thyroid history and medications must be included in clinical notes. If no thyroid history is given to satisfy Medicare criteria, only TSH test will be performed. If FT4/FT3 is requested and no history is given, they will only be performed if the TSH is abnormal.
Free T4 and/or Free T3	<p>TFT requests: Rebate applies if any of the criteria are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TSH is abnormal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> laboratories are authorised to perform FT4 automatically with or without thyroid history provided The following conditions are written in the clinical notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring thyroid disease Sick euthyroid syndrome (if patient is admitted to hospital) Psychiatric investigations or dementia Infertility or amenorrhoea Pituitary dysfunction suspected On medications that affects thyroid function <p>TSH requests only: Free T4 and Free T3 are not Medicare rebateable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medicare specifies that only a TSH can be performed, even if the TSH result is abnormal or relevant thyroid history is provided.
Tumour Markers (AFP, BhCG, CA 125, CA 15.3, CA 19.9, CEA, Thyroglobulin)	A Medicare rebate is available for test(s) performed in monitoring malignancy, or in the detection or monitoring of hepatic tumours, gestational trophoblastic disease, or germ cell tumour. A Medicare rebate is only available for up to 2 tumour marker tests per episode.
Vitamins A, B1, B2, B3, B6, C and E	1 request for 1 or more tests per 6 months
Vitamin B12	1 test per 12 months
Vitamin D	Testing is limited to people at increased risk of Vitamin D deficiency with 11 groups described in MBS

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