

Access Anaesthetics Items Update

November 2005

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1. Medicare Benefits Schedule

Basic RVG Unit Value

Unit value now \$17.15, up 30c from \$16.85. The fees for most other items have been increased by 2%.

Time Units

Time units after 2 hours are now assigned for each 10 minutes. Previously this happened after 4 hours.

New Items

There are 61 new items, including the following of which are relevant to anaesthetists/intensivists

Item	AUNITS	MBS_Fee	Description
13847		135.10	Counterpulsation by intraaortic balloon, management on the first day including initial and subsequent consultations and monitoring of parameters
13881		126.70	Airway access, establishment of and initiation of mechanical ventilation, in an Intensive Care Unit, not in association with any anaesthetic service, by a specialist or consultant physician for the purpose of subsequent ventilatory support
18351		108.05	Botulinum toxin (Dysport), injection of, for the treatment of hemifacial spasm in a patient 18 years of age or older, including all such injections on any one day
18360		108.05	Botulinum toxin (Botox), injection of, for the treatment of focal spasticity in adults, including all injections for all or any of the muscles subserving one functional activity, supplied by one motor nerve, with a maximum of 4 treatments per patient on any one day (2 per limb)
18362		213.50	Botulinum toxin (Botox), injection of, for the treatment of severe primary hyperhidrosis of the axillae, including all such injections on any one day
18364		108.05	Botulinum toxin (Dysport), injection of, for treatment of spasticity of the arm in adults following a stroke, including all injections for all or any of the muscles subserving one functional activity, supplied by one motor nerve, with a maximum of 4 treatments per patient on any one day (2 per limb)
18366		135.40	Botulinum toxin, injection of, for the treatment of strabismus in children and adults, including all such injections on any one day and associated electromyography
18368		231.10	Botulinum toxin, injection of, for the treatment of spasmodic dysphonia, including all such injections on any one day
18371		39.00	Botulinum toxin (Dysport), injection of, for the treatment of blepharospasm in a patient 18 years of age or older, including all such injections on any one day

20703	4	68.60	Anaesthesia for all procedures on the nerves, muscles, tendons and fascia of the upper abdominal wall
20803	4	68.60	Anaesthesia for all procedures on the nerves, muscles, tendons and fascia of the lower abdominal wall
20847	10	171.50	Anaesthesia for ovarian malignancy
20953	5	85.75	Anaesthesia for endometrial ablation or resection in association with hysteroscopy
21216	14	240.10	Anaesthesia for bilateral total hip replacement
22018	7	120.05	Measurement of the mechanical or gas exchange function of the respiratory system, using measurements of parameters, including pressures, volumes, flow, gas concentrations in inspired or expired air, alveolar gas or blood and incorporating serial arterial
22031	5	85.75	Intrathecal or epidural injection (initial) of a therapeutic substance or substances, with or without insertion of a catheter, in association with anaesthesia and surgery, for postoperative pain management
22036	3	51.45	Intrathecal or epidural injection (subsequent) of a therapeutic substance or substances, using an in-situ catheter, in association with anaesthesia and surgery, for postoperative pain management
23091	9	154.35	Anaesthesia time - 2:01 hours to 2:10 hours
23101	10	171.50	Anaesthesia time - 2:11 hours to 2:20 hours
23111	11	188.65	Anaesthesia time - 2:21 hours to 2:30 hours
23112	12	205.80	Anaesthesia time - 2:31 hours to 2:40 hours
23113	13	222.95	Anaesthesia time - 2:41 hours to 2:50 hours
23114	14	240.10	Anaesthesia time - 2:51 hours to 3:00 hours
23115	15	257.25	Anaesthesia time - 3:01 hours to 3:10 hours
23116	16	274.40	Anaesthesia time - 3:11 hours to 3:20 hours
23117	17	291.55	Anaesthesia time - 3:21 hours to 3:30 hours
23118	18	308.70	Anaesthesia time - 3:31 hours to 3:40 hours
23119	19	325.85	Anaesthesia time - 3:41 hours to 3:50 hours
23121	20	343.00	Anaesthesia time - 3:51 hours to 4:00 hours

Deleted items

13845 deleted (\$459.00);	replaced with 13847 (\$135.10)	Counterpulsation by intraaortic balloon
13879 deleted (\$187.85);	replaced with 13881 (\$126.70)	Airway access, establishment of and initiation
22030 deleted (\$ 33.70);	replaced with 22031 (\$ 85.75)	Intrathecal or epidural injection (initial)
22035 deleted (\$ 33.70);	replaced with 22036 (\$ 51.45)	Intrathecal or epidural injection (subsequent)

Time items 23090, 23100, 23110, 23120, 23130, 23140, 23150, 23160;
replaced with 23091, 23101, 23111-23119, 23121.

Modified unit value

The following 6 items have been assigned one extra unit.
A number (120) of time items have also had their unit value modified to account for the move to 10 min units after 2 hours.

Item	AUNITS	Sch_Fee	Description
20160	6	102.90	Anaesthesia for procedures on nose or accessory sinuses
20170	6	102.90	Anaesthesia for intraoral procedures, including biopsy
20940	4	68.60	Anaesthesia for per vagina and vaginal procedures (including biopsy of labia, vagina, cervix or endometrium)
20942	5	85.75	Anaesthesia for colpotomy, colpectomy or colporrhaphy
22900	6	102.90	Initiation of management by a medical practitioner of anaesthesia for extraction of tooth or teeth with or without incision of soft tissue or removal of bone
22905	6	102.90	Anaesthesia for restorative dental work

Modified description

95 items modified, including the following of relevance to anaesthetists/intensivists (changes underlined).

Item	AUNITS	MBS_Fee	Description
11503		120.00	Measurement of the mechanical or gas exchange function of the respiratory system, or of respiratory muscle function, or of ventilatory control mechanisms, using measurements of various parameters including pressures, volumes, flow, gas concentrations in inspired or expired air, alveolar gas or blood, electrical activity of muscles (the tests being performed under the supervision of a specialist or consultant physician or in the respiratory laboratory of a hospital) - each occasion at which 1 or more such tests are performed, <u>not being a service associated with a service to which item 22018 applies</u>
13857		126.70	Airway access, establishment of and initiation of mechanical ventilation (other than in the context an anaesthetic for surgery), outside of an Intensive Care Unit, for the purpose of subsequent ventilatory support in an Intensive Care Unit (Previously <i>Mechanical ventilation, initiation of ...</i>)
13870		313.40	Management of a patient in an Intensive Care Unit by a specialist or consultant physician <u>who is immediately available and exclusively rostered for intensive care</u> - including initial and subsequent attendances, electrocardiographic monitoring, arterial sampling and bladder catheterisation - management on the first day
13873		232.50	Management of a patient in an Intensive Care Unit by a specialist or consultant physician <u>who is immediately available and exclusively rostered for intensive care</u> - including all attendances, electrocardiographic monitoring, arterial sampling and bladder catheterisation - management on each day subsequent to the first day
13876		66.50	Central venous pressure, pulmonary arterial pressure, systemic arterial pressure or cardiac intracavity pressure, continuous monitoring by indwelling catheter in an intensive care unit <u>and managed by a specialist or consultant physician who is immediately available and exclusively rostered for intensive care</u> - each day of monitoring for each type of pressure up to a maximum of 4 pressures
13882		99.75	Ventilatory support in an Intensive Care Unit, management of, <u>by invasive means, or by non-invasive means where the only alternative to non-invasive ventilatory support would be invasive ventilatory support, by a specialist or consultant physician who is immediately available and exclusively rostered for intensive care</u> , each day
13885		133.00	Continuous arterio venous or veno venous haemofiltration, in an intensive care unit, management by a specialist or consultant physician <u>who is immediately available and exclusively rostered for intensive care</u> - on the first day
13888		66.50	Continuous arterio venous or veno venous haemofiltration, in an intensive care unit, management by a specialist or consultant physician <u>who is immediately available and exclusively rostered for intensive care</u> - on each day subsequent to the first day
15338		809.70	Prostate, radioactive seed implantation of, radiation oncology component, using transrectal ultrasound guidance, for localised prostatic malignancy at clinical stages T1 (<u>clinically inapparent tumour not palpable or visible by imaging</u>) or T2 (<u>tumour confined within prostate</u>), with a Gleason score of less than or equal to 6 and a prostate specific antigen (PSA) of less than or equal to 10ng/ml at the time of diagnosis. The procedure must be performed at an approved site in association with a urologist.
15360		312.45	Catheter based intravascular brachytherapy for the treatment of in-stent restenoses of 1 coronary artery, administration of radioactive sealed sources having a half life of less than 115 days using automated intravascular brachytherapy systems approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration. The procedure must be performed by a radiation oncologist in association with a cardiologist and be associated with a service to which item <u>38321, 38324, 38327 or 38330 applies</u> .
15363		312.45	Catheter based intravascular brachytherapy for the treatment of in-stent restenoses of 1 coronary artery, administration of radioactive sealed sources having a half life of greater than 115 days using automated intravascular brachytherapy systems approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration. The procedure must be performed by a radiation oncologist in association with a cardiologist and be associated with a service to which item <u>38321, 38324, 38327 or 38330 applies</u> .
15541		230.95	Catheter based intravascular brachytherapy planning: computerised radiation dosimetry. The procedure must be performed by a radiation oncologist in association with a cardiologist and be associated with a service to which item <u>38321, 38324, 38327 or 38330 applies</u> .
21965	5	85.75	Anaesthesia as a therapeutic procedure where it can be demonstrated that there is a clinical need for anaesthesia, not for the treatment of headache of any etiology

Changed item number

5 items of possible relevance to anaesthetists/intensivists

New Item	Old Item	MBS_Fee	Description
38800	38400	33.35	Thoracic cavity, aspiration of, for diagnostic purposes, not being a service associated with a service to which item 38403 applies
38803	38403	66.50	Thoracic cavity, aspiration of, with therapeutic drainage (paracentesis), with or without diagnostic sample
38359	38406	115.60	Pericardium, paracentesis of (excluding aftercare)
38806	38409	115.60	Intercostal drain, insertion of, not involving resection of rib (excluding aftercare)
38809	38410	142.45	Intercostal drain, insertion of, with pleurodesis and not involving resection of rib (excluding aftercare)
38812	38412	181.05	Percutaneous needle biopsy of lung

2. ASA Relative Value Guide

Unit Value

The ASA/AMA recommended maximum RVG unit value from November 2005 is \$60.00. This is commonly used for third party and workers compensation accounts.

New items

Item	AUnits	Description
CF742	6T	ANAESTHESIA for upper gastrointestinal endoscopic procedures in association with imaging techniques including fluoroscopy
CV019	7	MEASUREMENT OF THE MECHANICAL OR GAS EXCHANGE FUNCTION OF THE RESPIRATORY SYSTEM, OR OF RESPIRATORY MUSCLE FUNCTION, OR OF VENTILATORY CONTROL
CV800	3	The use of two-dimensional imaging ULTRASOUND GUIDANCE to assist percutaneous major vascular access involving catheterisation of the jugular, subclavian or femoral veinvascular access involving catheterisation of the jugular, subclavian or femoral vein
CV805	3	The use of two-dimensional imaging ULTRASOUND GUIDANCE to assist percutaneous neural blockade involving the brachial plexus, or femoral and/or sciatic nerve

Notes

CV019 is equivalent to MBS item 22018

CK215 changed to CK216 to align with MBS item 21216 (ANAESTHESIA for bilateral total hip replacement)

3. Department of Veterans' Affairs

From 1 November 2005, RVG anaesthesia items will be rebated at \$28.20 per unit. This is an increase of 2% from the initial value of \$27.65 per unit introduced on 1 July 2005.

Non-RVG items have been allocated a 20% increase in line with the increases provided for non-anaesthetist specialists on 1 January 2005. This increase will be backdated to July 1. Accounts must be resubmitted to claim the backdated increases.

Fees for consultation items were increased by 15% for non-anaesthetist specialists on 1 January 2005. These have still not been increased for anaesthetists and the fees remain at the previous level (plus the general 2% increase in MBS rebates). These include items 97, 697, 104, 105, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164 and 17603.

The DVA fees are contained in the DVA_RVG schedule which may be selected from the Health Fund drop-down list on the Items page. The purple Time-Based DVA tab is no longer applicable.

Non-anaesthetist specialists, e.g. intensivists, may use the DVA_ICU schedule to claim the 15% increased consultation fees. It is anticipated that in due course, anaesthetists will also be eligible for this increase, and a new common schedule will be provided to manage this.

4. Private Health Funds

Most fee schedules have been updated. The exceptions are ...

- GMFHealth (WA) – have not had a response to enquiries; no files on website.
- MBF – normally indexed in Feb; however new items will not be available on website until 2nd week of November .
- NIB – have not had a response to enquiries; no files on website.
- StLukes – indexing in December. No information on new items yet.

These will be updated as the information comes to hand.

5. Victorian Workers Compensation

If you use the Victorian Workers Compensation 'Time-engaged' fees, you should also update these. Click Tools > Time-based Fees, and adjust the relevant time rates to those shown below.

Preanesthetic consultation		86.50
AnInHrs	- for each of the first two 15 minute units (or part thereof)	94.15
AnInHrs	- for each subsequent 15 minutes (or part thereof)	58.00
AnOutHrs	- for the first 30 minutes (or part thereof)	226.30
AnOutHrs	- for each subsequent 30 minutes (or part thereof)	139.30

6. Installation notes

From the website ...

Within Access Anaesthetics, click Maintenance Menu > Web Update > Search for updates. This should identify whether your system is up-to-date and provide a button to download and install if appropriate.

Standalone update files for Medicare and Health Funds are also available on the Access Anaesthetics website at <http://www.healthbase.com.au/aa/download.htm>.

From a disk ...

Insert the disk, open Access Anaesthetics, and click Maintenance Menu > Disk Update. Select the disk location and click review updates. This should identify whether your system is up-to-date and provide a button to install.

How to check if your installation succeeded ...

Items file – click *Maintenance Menu > MBS/RVG Items File* and look at the name of the file listed as the Items file. This should be *AAItems2005_Nov.mdb*.

Health Funds – click *Maintenance Menu > Health Fund Fees*. The version and date of the file will be shown at the top middle of the screen. The first version released for this update was Ver 5.6, Oct 31. Other versions will follow.

TP/WC rates – check the rates in the Options form on the Unit and Time Values page. These should be \$60/unit.

How to change back to a previous version ...

If you want to create accounts for procedures performed prior to 1 November 2005, do the following. For the Items file, click *Maintenance Menu > MBS/RVG Items File* and select an earlier version of the schedule file. For health funds, click *Maintenance Menu > Health Fund Fees > Change to another ...* Select an earlier health fund fee file. You may change back and forth between the different files at any time. Note that for networked versions, if one user changes the file, this will change it for all users.