

29 July 2015

MSAC Secretariat through HTA Access Point
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To whom it may concern

Re: ARGANZ application to MSAC regarding CT Colonography

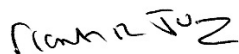
It has come to the attention of the RACGP that the Abdominal Radiology Group of Australia and New Zealand (ARGANZ) has made a formal application regarding Medicare-rebatable indications for CT colonography (CTC).

The RACGP is supportive of changes to Medicare which improve patient access to safe, evidence-based and clinically appropriate imaging. However, the RACGP is concerned with the proposed change to the CTC Medicare item to require referral by a specialist colonoscopist.

The College believes this requirement undermines the value of general practice to the detriment of patients and the health system. General practitioners (GPs) have the requisite clinical skills to determine whether a patient is fit for optical (conventional) colonoscopy and if contraindicated, require a CTC. Limiting referral to a specialist will delay time to diagnosis, impose an unnecessary cost on patients (for the consultation fee for the specialist referral) and disadvantage patients in areas where access to such specialists is limited.

To support GPs in referring, the RACGP would welcome the opportunity to collaborate with ARGANZ and MSAC in producing guidance in this area. However, we believe the restrictive referral criteria must be reconsidered.

Yours Sincerely



Dr Frank R Jones
President