8 February 2016

Professor Bruce Robinson
Chair, MBS Review Taskforce
Department of Health

Via email: MBSReviews@health.gov.au

Dear Professor Robinson,

RE: Clinical Committee recommendations regarding obsolete MBS items

Thank you for providing the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) with the opportunity to comment on the first tranche of Clinical Committee recommendations regarding obsolete MBS items.

The RACGP is pleased that the review has progressed and that broad stakeholder feedback is being sought on these recommendations. Our members have considered the MBS items identified as obsolete (as listed below) and support the Clinical Committees' recommendation to remove them from the MBS.
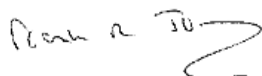
MBS grouping	MBS items
Diagnostic imaging	58706, 58924, 59503, 59715, 59736, 59760, 61465
Ear, nose and throat surgery	11321, 18246, 41680, 41695, 41758, 41761, 41846, 41849, 41852
Gastroenterology	13500,13503, 30493, 27078, 32081
Obstetrics	46509
Thoracic medicine	11500

The inclusion of general practitioners (GPs) on many of the Clinical Committees is welcome. Given their scope of practice and generalist expertise, GPs well placed to provide expert advice on the impact of proposed changes on patients and the health system generally. The RACGP will continue to provide assistance to the MBS Review Taskforce to identify suitable GPs to support this important work.

However, the RACGP is concerned by reports that only half of the savings achieved through the removal of these obsolete MBS items will be directed back into health. The RACGP is of the view that all savings achieved should be re-invested in healthcare to ensure patient access to timely, high-quality and evidence based healthcare.

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners

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If you have any questions or comments regarding the RACGP's submission, please contact myself or Mr Roald Versteeg, Manager – Policy and Practice Support, on (03) 8699 0408 or at roald.versteeg@racgp.org.au.

Yours sincerely

Dr Frank R Jones
President