



# RACGP

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners

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4 October 2017

Associate Professor Peter Stewart  
Chair  
Pathology Clinical Committee  
Medicare Benefits Schedule Review Taskforce

Via email: [MBSReviews@health.gov.au](mailto:MBSReviews@health.gov.au)

Dear A/Prof Stewart

## **Report from the Pathology Clinical Committee on endocrine tests**

Thank you for providing the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) with opportunity to comment on the recommendations made by the Pathology Clinical Committee (the Committee) on endocrine tests as part of the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) Review.

Recommendation 5 proposes that MBS item 66551 be restricted under Rule 25 to a maximum of four tests per year and MBS item 66554 to a maximum of six tests per year. The RACGP agrees with this recommendation, however would like clarification of whether pathology providers will absorb the additional costs if a patient exceeds the number of tests allowed in a year by the MBS, or whether another system will be implemented.

The RACGP would also like to see the Committee recommend that:

- emphasis is placed on ensuring that pathology results which are sent to a general practice's medical record system are consistently coded and seamlessly filed irrespective of the pathology provider, to support cumulative reporting.
- pathology providers be required to consolidate tests if a patient presents with multiple requests on the same day (from separate doctors).

I trust this information is useful to the Committee. If you have any questions for comments regarding the RACGP's submission, please contact myself or Mr Roald Versteeg, Manager – Advocacy and Policy, on (03) 8699 0408 or at [roald.versteeg@racgp.org.au](mailto:roald.versteeg@racgp.org.au)

Yours sincerely

Dr Bastian Seidel  
President