

16 July 2024

Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC)

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

Dear Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC),

**Re: MSAC 1752 – Anal human papillomavirus (HPV) and cytology testing in high-risk populations to determine access to high-resolution anoscopy and ablative treatment to prevent anal cancer**

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) thanks the Department of Health and Aged Care for the opportunity to respond to MSAC application 1752 - for human papillomavirus (HPV) and cytology testing in populations at high-risk for anal precursor lesions and anal cancer.

General practice is the most accessible service across Australia's healthcare system. General practitioners (GPs) and their teams play a vital role in all aspects of cancer care, including diagnosis, screening, treatment, and care coordination. A patient's first port of call is usually their GP when they have any health concerns or are seeking health advice. Almost nine in 10 Australians visit a GP each year providing many opportunities for GPs to advise their patients about cancer prevention, screening and testing. The holistic, patient-centred, and relationship-based approach of general practice can help ensure the effective delivery of preventive care and treatment.

- The RACGP supports application 1752, which allows GPs to collect the initial anal swab samples from at-risk populations (frequency 3-5 years depending on a risk table). Laboratories will then process these samples through a two-step process: by first testing for the viruses, followed by screening for pre-cancerous conditions. After obtaining the results, GPs will refer patients to specialist providers for biopsies and treatment similar to the procedure for follow up of cervical cancer screening results.
- The remuneration recommended for Category 1 – Professional attendances MBS fee (\$17.90) for a physician (GP or other) to take a history, perform the swab and provide associated counselling is too low and inadequate for the work required. The RACGP recommends it would be more appropriate to set this fee at the equivalent of a [level B consultation](#).

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide feedback. For any enquiries regarding this letter, please contact Stephan Groombridge, National Manager, Practice management, Standards and Quality Care on (03) 8699 0544 or [stephan.groombridge@racgp.org.au](mailto:stephan.groombridge@racgp.org.au).

Yours sincerely



Dr Nicole Higgins  
President