

6 October 2023

MSAC Secretariat
Australian Government Department of Health
GPO Box 9848
Canberra ACT 2601
Via email: commentsMSAC@health.gov.au

Dear MSAC Secretariat

Re: Application 1758 – Expansion of MBS item numbers 12320 & 12322 for bone mineral density testing to include patients aged 60 – 69 years.

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) thanks the Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC) for the opportunity to provide a submission to Application 1758 – Expansion of MBS item numbers 12320 & 12322 for bone mineral density testing to include patients aged 60-69 years.

RACGP recommendation

- MBS item numbers remain unchanged and consistent with current clinical guidance.

The RACGP does not support expansion of bone mineral density (BMD) testing and recommends the criteria for MBS item numbers 12320 & 12322 continue to follow the evidence-based recommendations outlined in the RACGP's [Osteoporosis prevention, diagnosis and management in postmenopausal women and men over 50 years of age](#).¹

The RACGP recommends an initial case finding approach for post-menopausal women and men over the age of 50 years to determine whether the patient is at low or major risk of osteoporosis¹. This will avoid potential patient harms from overscreening, and ensures access for people who most need and will benefit from receiving the test.

As part of the case finding approach, if the general practitioner (GP) determines the patient to be at low risk of osteoporosis, then a BMD scan is not required. If the patient sustains a fracture following minimal trauma (such as a fall from standing height or less) they should be considered to have a presumptive diagnosis of osteoporosis. However, if the patient is determined to have [major risk factors for osteoporosis](#), then they would qualify for a dual energy X-ray absorptiometry (DXA) of spine and proximal femur as a diagnostic test only.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide a submission to Application 1758 – Expansion of MBS item numbers 12320 & 12322 for bone mineral density testing to include patients aged 60 – 69 years. If you have any questions regarding our submission, please contact Mr Stephan Groombridge, National Manager, e-health, Quality Care & Standards at stephan.groombridge@racgp.org.au or 03 8699 0544.

Yours sincerely



Dr Nicole Higgins
RACGP President

References

1. The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and Osteoporosis Australia. Osteoporosis prevention, diagnosis and management in postmenopausal women and men over 50 years of age. 2nd edn. East Melbourne, Vic: RACGP, 2017.