

13 November 2018

Professor Bruce Robinson  
Chair, MBS Review Taskforce

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

Dear Professor Robinson,

**Re: Medicare Benefits Schedule Review Taskforce - Report from the Diagnostic Imaging Clinical Committee**

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback and comments on the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) Review Taskforce's Report from the Diagnostic Imaging Clinical Committee (DICC).

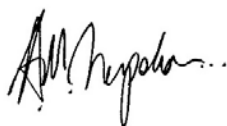
The RACGP supports the DICC's recommendations that, in the areas of computed tomography (CT) of cervical spine and head and musculoskeletal ultrasounds, research on the reasons underpinning observed GP requesting patterns should be undertaken before making recommendations for changes to item numbers.

The DICC recommends restriction of some CT angiography to specialist-only requesting to prevent inappropriate requesting. The RACGP believes that restrictions will create unnecessary and harmful barriers to patient access, especially for rural and remote patients who need to streamline investigations prior to specialist appointments. It is likely that these investigations are usually ordered by specialists but there seems no rationale – clinical or financial why these tests should be limited to specialist.

It would be a better strategy to outline under which circumstances it is reasonable to request CT angiography in order to encourage better requesting practices from all clinicians. We commend the DICC on taking this approach with ultrasound of the neck.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to provide feedback and comments. We look forward to hearing about this Review's progress and outcomes. For queries on the RACGP's submission, please contact Mr Stephan Groombridge, Manager, eHealth and Quality Care on 03 8699 0544 or at [stephan.groombridge@racgp.org.au](mailto:stephan.groombridge@racgp.org.au)

Yours sincerely,



**Dr Harry Nespolon**  
President