

18 December 2019

Professor Bruce Robinson
Chair, Medicare Benefits Review Taskforce

Email: MBSReviews@health.gov.au

Dear Professor Robinson,

Re: Report from the Paediatric Surgery Advisory Group

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) thanks the Department of Health (DoH) for the opportunity to comment on the *Report from the Paediatric Surgery Advisory Group 2019*.

The RACGP provides the following comment regarding the recommendations specifically related to circumcision performed by general practitioners:

Recommendation 2:

The RACGP agrees that a survey of GPs would be useful to better understand the circumstances and reasons for performing circumcision procedures. Information in the following areas would assist to inform future revision of MBS rebates:

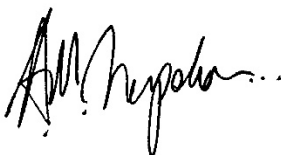
- Type of patients
- The purpose of the surgery (i.e. medical or socio-religious indications)
- Who manages complications and revision surgery
- The barriers and enablers to providing circumcision
- What anaesthetic arrangements are in place, and where the surgery is performed (i.e. clinic, community hospital theatres).

Recommendation 4:

The Paediatric Surgery Advisory Group proposes that the descriptor for item number 30654 be amended to include use of topical or local analgesia for circumcision. The RACGP recommends a better approach would be removal of Item 30654 and amendment of item 30658 to include general sedation, local or topical analgesia according to the clinical need. This would avoid the financial incentive toward general anaesthesia while providing a more realistic rebate for the service.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide feedback on this report. Please contact Mr Stephan Groombridge, Manager, eHealth and Quality Care on (03) 8669 0544 or at stephan.groombridge@racgp.org.au if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely



Dr Harry Nespolon
President