



28 October 2022

MSAC Secretariat
Medical Services Advisory Committee

Via email: commentsMSAC@health.gov.au

Dear MSAC Secretariat,

Re: MSAC application 1736 – Lipoprotein (A) testing as an independent predictor of cardiovascular disease

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) thanks the Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC) for the opportunity to respond to this consultation. General practitioners (GPs) are the backbone of Australian healthcare with almost nine in 10 Australians visiting a GP each year.¹ Preventive care is a key part of general practice, with approximately 21% of reported health presentations to GPs in 2022 for preventive care.¹

The RACGP produces several clinical guidelines relevant for reducing cardiovascular disease (CVD) risk in the Australian population. These guidelines, including the [Guidelines for preventive activities in general practice](#) (the Red Book), the [National guide to a preventive health assessment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people](#) (the National guide) and [Supporting smoking cessation: a guide for health professionals](#), help GPs provide high-quality care and support for their patients to prevent CVD, and manage CVD risk factors.

The RACGP has also endorsed the [National Vascular Disease Prevention Alliance Guidelines](#) for the management of absolute cardiovascular disease risk. The guidelines are currently being updated and will include a revised calculator called the Australian Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) risk calculator.

The focus of MSAC application 1736 is on measuring Lipoprotein (A) to establish high cardiovascular risk. The new draft Australian CVD risk calculator includes several risk modifiers, with considerable overlap with indications for Lipoprotein (A) testing, making the proposed test superfluous.

The RACGP recommends the new draft Australian CVD risk calculator should form the basis of cardiovascular risk screening and, therefore, does not support this application for Lipoprotein (A) testing. We also note this application includes Proprotein convertase subtilisin/kexin type 9 (PCSK9) medicines. These medicines provide additional treatment options once high cardiovascular risk has been established and so are not relevant to whether Lipoprotein (A) testing is funded.



RACGP
Royal Australian College
of General Practitioners

Healthy Profession.
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The RACGP thanks MSAC for the opportunity to provide this feedback. If you have any queries regarding this submission, please contact Mr Stephan Groombridge, National Manager, e-Health and Quality Care on (03) 8699 0544 or at stephan.groombridge@racgp.org.au.

Yours sincerely

Adj Prof Karen Price
President

Reference

1. The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners. General Practice: Health of the Nation 2022. East Melbourne, Vic: RACGP, 2022.