



**Australian Government**  

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**Medical Services Advisory Committee**

**Minutes from MSAC Executive Meeting, 29 September 2017**

**Application 1490 – Breast Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) for Breast Implant Associated Anaplastic Large Cell Lymphoma**

**MSAC Executive advice to the Minister**

In the context of a rare disease with limited data, the MSAC Executive agreed to an expedited MSAC assessment and supported the MBS listing of MRI of the breast for patients who have been diagnosed with breast implant associated anaplastic large cell lymphoma (BIA-ALCL) based on acceptable safety and clinical effectiveness with an MBS fee of \$690.

**Summary of consideration and rationale for MSAC Executive’s advice**

The MSAC Executive noted that the Department received an application for breast MRI for BIA-ALCL which was considered by PASC at its meeting on 11 August 2017. PASC referred this application to the MSAC Executive for advice on an appropriate assessment pathway.

The MSAC Executive noted that BIA-ALCL is a rare but serious complication of breast implants with approximately 56 cases diagnosed in Australia since 2007. The PICO Confirmation stated that MRI is generally considered safe, especially when patients are adequately screened beforehand. This breast MRI is proposed to be incorporated at staging and workup to add further information to the clinical picture and assist with improving surgical outcomes. The MSAC Executive noted the PASC outcome stated that this intervention will help to avoid cases of incomplete excision; the applicant commented that emerging data suggests incomplete surgical excision results in poorer patient outcomes.

The MSAC Executive noted advice from the Department that because BIA-ALCL is a rare lymphoma with very low patient numbers there would be very limited data for a full MSAC assessment. The Department advised that an HTA process was not required, nor was assessment of financial impact. The MSAC Executive agreed and endorsed the Department’s decision that the item is able to progress directly to implementation.

The MSAC Executive noted the information provided by the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists regarding the proposed fee, and agreed that an MBS fee of \$690 for the service was reasonable.

The MSAC Executive Committee agreed to an expedited MSAC assessment for application 1490 and supported the MBS listing of the service [as per the proposed item descriptor below]:

Category: Category 5 – Diagnostic imaging services

Proposed item descriptor: MBS [item number]

MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING – scan of both breasts, performed under the professional supervision of an eligible provider at an eligible location where the patient is referred by a specialist or by a consultant physician and where:

- (a) a dedicated breast coil is used; and
  - (b) the request for scan identifies that:
    - (i) the patient has a breast implant in situ; and
    - (ii) anaplastic large cell lymphoma has been diagnosed.
- (R) (Contrast) (Anaes)

**Limited to once per lifetime**

**MBS Fee: \$690.00**

The MSAC Executive noted that in line with its terms of reference, this advice will be reported to the next full MSAC meeting.