

# **MSAC Application 1813**

**Measurable residual disease (MRD) for  
acute myeloid leukaemia (AML)**

**PICO Set**

## Population

### **Describe the population in which the proposed health technology is intended to be used:**

The intended population for the proposed medical service (Measurable residual disease [MRD] testing) includes patients with acute myeloid leukaemia (AML) in morphological remission (<5% bone marrow blasts) following intensive induction therapy or, in selected cases, after less-intensive therapy when further treatment decisions are being contemplated.<sup>1, 2</sup>

AML is an aggressive cancer of the blood and bone marrow that arises from the clonal proliferation of immature myeloid cells, called blasts. This uncontrolled proliferation leads to the replacement of normal haematopoietic cells, resulting in the common symptoms of anaemia (fatigue, dyspnoea, pallor), neutropenia (recurrent infections and fever), thrombocytopenia (easy bruising, petechiae, mucosal bleeding), and bone pain (due to marrow expansion).<sup>3</sup> High circulating blast counts can also lead to leukostasis, producing respiratory or neurologic compromise. Constitutional features such as weight loss, night sweats, and fever may also be present.

In Australia, AML predominantly affects older adults, with a median age at diagnosis of 69 years, but can occur at any age.<sup>4</sup> Overall survival has remained stagnant since 2007, with a reported five-year relative survival of around 26%, reflecting the aggressive nature of the disease and the high frequency of relapse.<sup>1, 4</sup>

AML is a highly heterogeneous disease with respect to morphology, immunophenotype (cell-surface marker patterns), and genetic abnormalities, as well as treatment response and health outcomes.<sup>1, 2</sup> Diagnosis requires  $\geq 20\%$  myeloid blasts in bone marrow or blood, unless specific defining genetic lesions such as t(8;21) or inv(16) are present. Molecular testing is used to classify AML into favourable, intermediate, or adverse risk groups according to the 2022 European LeukemiaNet (ELN) risk classification, which guide therapy (**Table 1**).<sup>1</sup>

MRD testing is particularly important for patients in the ELN intermediate-risk group, which constitutes the largest single category within this prognostic classification.<sup>5</sup> Currently, international and Australian clinical practice guidelines suggest that intermediate- and adverse-risk AML patients who are fit should receive an allogeneic haematopoietic stem cell transplantation (allo-HSCT) in first complete remission.<sup>1, 5, 6</sup> However, the intermediate-risk group is recognised to be highly heterogeneous in terms of clinical outcomes. MRD testing enables more refined risk stratification within this cohort: for example, patients who are MRD-positive may be directed to allo-HSCT, while MRD-negative patients may avoid allo-HSCT and its attendant risks. This is particularly relevant because allo-HSCT is an intensive procedure associated with appreciable transplant-related mortality (approximately 15%). Avoiding allo-HSCT in lower-risk patients is also of significant financial benefit to the Australian health system, since allo-HSCT is a high-cost procedure (approximately \$246,855 per patient; unpublished data available upon request).

**Table 1 2022 ELN risk classification by genetics at initial diagnosis, for patients treated with intensive chemotherapy**

Risk category†	Genetic abnormality
Favorable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• t(8;21)(q22;q22.1)/RUNX1::RUNX1T1†,‡</li> <li>• inv(16)(p13.1q22) or t(16;16)(p13.1;q22)/CBFB::MYH11†,‡</li> <li>• Mutated NPM1†,§ without FLT3-ITD</li> <li>• bZIP in-frame mutated CEBPA  </li> </ul>
Intermediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mutated NPM1†,§ with FLT3-ITD</li> <li>• Wild-type NPM1 with FLT3-ITD (without adverse-risk genetic lesions)</li> <li>• t(9;11)(p21.3;q23.3)/MLLT3::KMT2A†,¶</li> <li>• Cytogenetic and/or molecular abnormalities not classified as favorable or adverse</li> </ul>
Adverse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• t(6;9)(p23.3;q34.1)/DEK::NUP214</li> <li>• t(v;11q23.3)/KMT2A-rearranged#</li> <li>• t(9;22)(q34.1;q11.2)/BCR::ABL1</li> <li>• t(8;16)(p11.2;p13.3)/KAT6A::CREBBP</li> <li>• inv(3)(q21.3q26.2) or t(3;3)(q21.3;q26.2)/GATA2, MECOM(EVI1)</li> <li>• t(3q26.2;v)/MECOM(EVI1)-rearranged</li> <li>• -5 or del(5q); -7; -17/abn(17p)</li> <li>• Complex karyotype,** monosomal karyotype††</li> <li>• Mutated ASXL1, BCOR, EZH2, RUNX1, SF3B1, SRSF2, STAG2, U2AF1, and/or ZRSR2‡‡</li> <li>• Mutated TP53<sup>a</sup></li> </ul>

Source: Döhner et al 2022<sup>1</sup>

**Specify any characteristics of patients with, or suspected of having, the medical condition, who are proposed to be eligible for the proposed health technology, describing how a patient would be investigated, managed and referred within the Australian healthcare system in the lead up to being considered eligible for the technology:**

People with suspected AML typically present via GP or emergency departments with cytopenias, infection, bleeding or constitutional symptoms and are urgently referred to a haematologist at a tertiary/metropolitan centre. Diagnostic work-up includes complete blood count and differential count, bone marrow aspirate/trephine, immunophenotyping by flow cytometry, cytogenetics (karyotype ± FISH), and molecular testing (targeted NGS for Tier 1 AML genes; and urgent single-gene assays such as *FLT3* and *NPM1* where rapid impact on choice of induction therapy is expected).<sup>1, 6</sup> Baseline cytogenetic and molecular assessments are recommended for all newly diagnosed patients to aid in risk stratification, treatment selection and identification of a traceable MRD marker.<sup>1, 2</sup>

Following a confirmed diagnosis of AML, patients are evaluated for suitability for active treatment. Newly diagnosed patients that are suitable will receive intensive chemotherapy as a first-line treatment option (e.g. "7+3" cytarabine + anthracycline [idarubicin or daunorubicin], with regimen adaptations such as the addition of gemtuzumab ozogamicin for core binding factor [CBF] AML or midostaurin for *FLT3*-mutated disease), followed by consolidation therapy and consideration of either maintenance therapy or allo-HSCT according to ELN risk and patient fitness.<sup>6, 7</sup> Patients not

fit for intensive chemotherapy are recommended lower-intensity treatments (azacitidine + venetoclax), or best supportive care;<sup>6</sup> MRD testing is most established after intensive induction/consolidation. MRD monitoring is not routinely performed in most elderly patients receiving low-intensity therapy without a treatment alternative, however there is emerging evidence of utility and prognostic value.<sup>1</sup>

The intended population for MRD testing includes:

- Patients with confirmed AML in morphologic remission following intensive chemotherapy (usually after two cycles of induction/consolidation);
- Patients who are potential candidates for further consolidation chemotherapy, allo-HSCT, or maintenance therapy;
- Patients for whom early identification of molecular or immunophenotypic relapse would inform treatment modification or pre-emptive therapy.

### Provide a rationale for the specifics of the eligible population:

MRD is most useful in patients that achieve morphological remission, with trackable molecular markers (e.g. *NPM1*, *FLT3-ITD*, CBF AML etc.) or where leukaemia-associated immunophenotypes (LAIPs) can be reliably defined for MFC monitoring (**Table 2**). Approximately 80-90% of adult AML patients have identifiable MRD markers suitable for either MFC or molecular assessment.<sup>1, 5</sup> In addition, approximately 65% of patients that are candidates for induction therapy will achieve remission, with rates varying by age and other prognostic factors.<sup>8</sup> In patients that meet these criteria, MRD monitoring provides a more sensitive marker of disease activity than morphological assessment, and can inform treatment decisions regarding earlier intensification or de-escalation of therapy, including the suitability or avoidance of allo-HSCT.

**Table 2 MRD markers by primary testing method**

MRD Marker	Primary Testing Method	Notes
<i>NPM1</i> <i>CBFB::MYH11</i> <i>RUNX1::RUNX1T1</i>	Real-time quantitative PCR	Highest sensitivity; preferred whenever validated assay exists
<i>FLT3-ITD</i> <i>IDH1/2</i>	NGS (targeted deep sequencing)	Recommended for MRD detection to $\leq 10^{-5}$ ; not to be used as sole MRD marker
<i>IDH1/2</i>	MFC	<i>IDH1/2</i> mutations often persist in remission
No molecular marker identifiable (LAIP/DfN)	MFC	MFC using leukaemia-associated immunophenotypes

**Source:** Adapted from Döhner et al. 2022<sup>1</sup>, Heuser et al. 2021<sup>5</sup> and NCCN 2025<sup>2</sup>

### Are there any prerequisite tests?

Yes. Tests to diagnose AML: Bone marrow morphological assessment, full blood count, immunophenotyping, and cytogenetic and molecular studies.

### Are the prerequisite tests MBS funded?

Yes.

## **Provide details to fund the prerequisite tests:**

N/A

## **Intervention**

### **Name of the proposed health technology:**

MRD-AML testing using multiparametric flow cytometry (MFC), next generation sequencing (NGS) or polymerase chain reaction (PCR) assays.

### **Describe the key components and clinical steps involved in delivering the proposed health technology:**

Delivery of MRD testing in AML involves coordinated diagnostic, laboratory, and clinical processes to detect measurable disease following therapy. Testing is performed in accredited pathology laboratories using high-sensitivity techniques such as MFC, PCR, or NGS. Bone marrow aspirate is the preferred specimen, particularly at defined time points such as post-induction, post-consolidation, and pre- or post-transplant. Peripheral blood may be used for surveillance in selected molecular assays (e.g., *NPM1*, CBF AML), though its sensitivity is lower than bone marrow-based testing. Strict sample handling, such as prioritising the first marrow pull and ensuring prompt processing, is critical to maintain assay sensitivity and reproducibility.<sup>1, 2</sup>

Routine implementation of MRD testing requires supporting clinical infrastructure, including coordination between haematologists, pathologists, and transplant teams. Samples are collected in outpatient or inpatient haematology settings, processed by specialised laboratory personnel, and integrated into electronic reporting systems to inform clinical review.<sup>1, 2</sup>

### **Identify how the proposed technology achieves the intended patient outcomes:**

High-sensitivity MRD assays, including MFC and molecular techniques such as qPCR and NGS, are essential for refining post-remission risk and guiding allo-HSCT decisions. These assays:

1. provide a quantitative means of establishing the depth of remission;
2. refine post-remission relapse risk assessment;
3. detect impending relapse to enable early intervention; and
4. serve as a surrogate endpoint to accelerate drug development and regulatory approval.<sup>1</sup>

MRD analysis quantifies residual leukaemic cells below the threshold of conventional morphology (typically 5% leukaemia blasts on bone marrow aspirate), providing a far more precise measure of remission depth and treatment response.<sup>9</sup> Results are classified as MRD-negative, low-level positive, or MRD-positive according to validated thresholds for each assay. Interpretation is multidisciplinary, combining laboratory and clinical expertise to guide patient management. Confirmed MRD positivity after treatment, or re-emergence during surveillance, triggers review and may prompt treatment intensification, introduction of targeted therapy, or referral for allo-HSCT. MRD negativity across both molecular and flow platforms represents the strongest predictor of durable remission and improved survival outcomes.<sup>1, 5, 10</sup>

Parallel MFC and molecular testing offer complementary prognostic value: While molecular assays generally have superior sensitivity, MFC can detect immunophenotypic aberrancies even when molecular targets are undetectable at relapse due to leukaemic clonal evolution,<sup>11, 12</sup> while concurrent negativity across both methods provides the most powerful predictor of durable

remission.<sup>13, 14</sup> Collectively, these findings underpin modern MRD-directed treatment strategies and the shift toward response-adapted therapy and transplant decision-making guided by MRD status.<sup>1, 2</sup>

MRD testing is incorporated into optimal care pathways for AML per the AML Australian Clinical Guidelines<sup>6</sup> as part of the National Strategic Action Plan for Blood Cancer (September 2020).<sup>15</sup>

**Does the proposed health technology include a registered trademark component with characteristics that distinguishes it from other similar health components?**

No

**Explain whether it is essential to have this trademark component or whether there would be other components that would be suitable:**

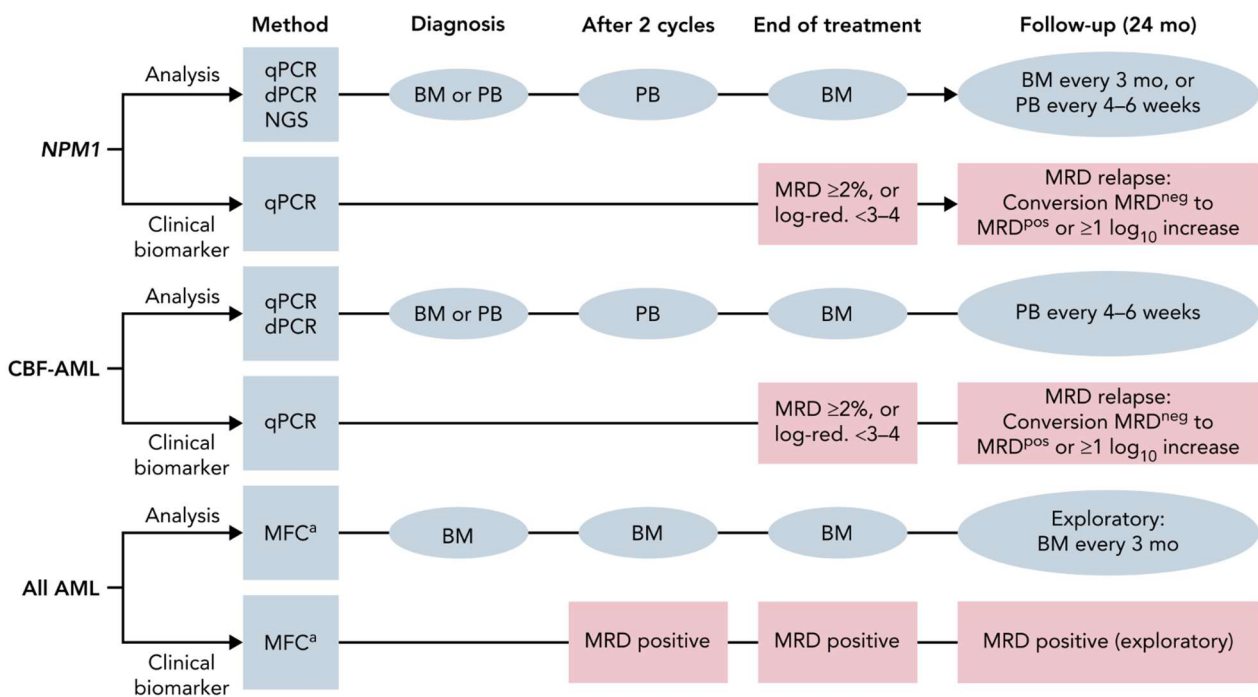
N/A

**Are there any proposed limitations on the provision of the proposed health technology delivered to the patient (For example: accessibility, dosage, quantity, duration or frequency):**

No

**Provide details and explain:**

No limitation should be placed on the number of services that each patient can receive, due to the heterogeneity in AML biology and patient response to treatment. While most patients will require 4 or fewer tests per year, in accordance with the ELN recommended MRD testing algorithm (**Figure 1**),<sup>1</sup> patients with CBF-AML, and those who respond poorly to treatments may require additional testing. Importantly, patients who relapse with AML will require ongoing MRD testing to determine the effectiveness of their next line of therapy, necessitating restarting of the MRD assessment algorithm.



**Figure 1** Algorithm of MRD assessment and time points at which MRD is considered a clinically relevant biomarker

*“Blue squares indicate timepoints of assessment and source of material; pink squares indicate timepoints for treatment modification based on a clinically relevant biomarker: for example, if the level of molecular MRD as assessed by qPCR is  $\geq 2\%$  or if there is failure to reduce mutant transcript levels by 3 to 4 log after completion of consolidation chemotherapy, treatment modifications (e.g., allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplantation) may be considered; similarly, if patients are still MRD positive by MFC after 2 cycles of intensive chemotherapy or at end of treatment. For patients receiving less intensive therapy, timepoints for assessment and clinical decision making are not yet established. Modified from 2021 ELN MRD recommendations” Source: Döhner et al. 2022<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>a</sup>MFC as assessed by LAIP or the DfN method.

AML = acute myeloid leukaemia; BM = bone marrow; CBF = core-binding factor; PB = peripheral blood; q/dPCR = quantitative/digital polymerase chain reaction.

**NOTE:** About half of patients with *FLT3-ITD* mutations will also have *NPM1*; however, there is value to doing *FLT3* MRD in these patients in addition to *NPM1* (especially post induction and end of treatment). At the time the ELN guideline was written *FLT3* MRD testing wasn't as well established, hence it wasn't included. An updated guidelines from ELN will be published soon which will more strongly emphasise *FLT3* MRD testing.

**If applicable, advise which health professionals will be needed to provide the proposed health technology:**

MRD testing would be provided by Approved Practising Pathologists in line with other tests on the MBS Pathology Table.

**If applicable, advise whether delivery of the proposed health technology can be delegated to another health professional:**

N/A

**If applicable, advise if there are any limitations on which health professionals might provide a referral for the proposed health technology:**

Yes. The proposed services should only be referred by a specialist oncologist, haematologist or consultant physician.

**Is there specific training or qualifications required to provide or deliver the proposed service, and/or any accreditation requirements to support delivery of the health technology?**

Yes

**Provide details and explain:**

Testing would be delivered only by Approved Practising Pathologists in NATA Accredited Pathology Laboratories (as defined in MBS Pathology table) by referral only by registered Medical Practitioners (haematologists, oncologists and consultant physicians) in line with other tests in the MBS Pathology Table. NPAAC qualifications in genomic testing.

**Indicate the proposed setting(s) in which the proposed health technology will be delivered:**

- ☐ Consulting rooms
- ☐ Day surgery centre
- ☐ Emergency Department
- ☒ Inpatient private hospital
- ☒ Inpatient public hospital
- ☒ Laboratory
- ☒ Outpatient clinic

- ☐ Patient's home
- ☐ Point of care testing
- ☐ Residential aged care facility
- ☐ Other (please specify)

All MRD assays, including MFC, PCR, and NGS, are performed in accredited pathology laboratories. Testing requires the collection of bone marrow or peripheral blood samples. Samples are typically collected in outpatient clinics or during inpatient care and then processed in the laboratory. Routine follow-up involves scheduled peripheral blood draws, bone marrow procedures conducted in day oncology or haematology units. In inpatient settings, bone marrow sampling may occur during hospital admission for induction or consolidation therapy, or when patients are otherwise clinically unwell.

**Is the proposed health technology intended to be entirely rendered inside Australia?**

Yes

**Provide additional details on the proposed health technology to be rendered outside of Australia:**

N/A

## Comparator

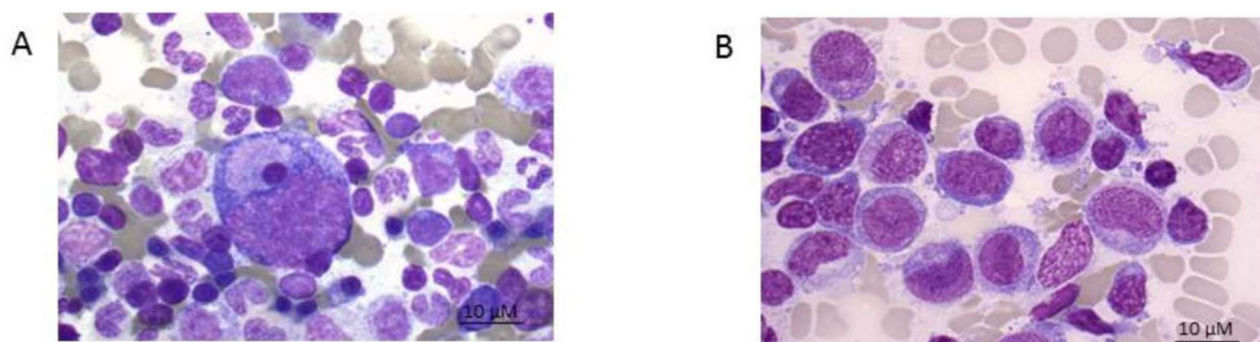
**Nominate the appropriate comparator(s) for the proposed medical service (i.e., how is the proposed population currently managed in the absence of the proposed medical service being available in the Australian healthcare system). This includes identifying healthcare resources that are needed to be delivered at the same time as the comparator service:**

Following induction therapy, patients who achieve complete remission are monitored for relapse risk. Without MRD testing, this surveillance relies on full blood examination and periodic bone marrow biopsy to detect morphological relapse (morphological assessment  $\pm$  cytogenetic analysis), which becomes apparent once bone marrow blasts exceed 5%. However, molecular or immunophenotypic relapse typically precedes morphologic relapse by several weeks to months.<sup>10, 16</sup>

Typically, morphology can detect down to approximately five blasts (AML cells) in 100 white cells.<sup>17</sup> This is insensitive with poor specificity and a wide coefficient of variation for residual leukaemia after treatment, and indeed NCCN guidelines define MRD-AML as the presence of leukaemic cells below the threshold of detection by conventional morphologic assessment.<sup>2</sup> To better define the residual leukaemic burden, immunophenotyping by MFC and/or molecular studies is required.<sup>1, 9, 17</sup>

Cytogenetic analysis is also frequently performed on bone marrow aspirates. This genetic technology will allow leukaemia cell burden to be measured to approximately 5 in 100 cells if a clonal cytogenetic marker is identified.





**Figure 2 Bone marrow smear.** A) shows the smears of healthy bone marrow consisting of different functional cell types and B) an AML patient with predominantly leukaemic blasts.<sup>17</sup>

**List any existing MBS item numbers that are relevant for the nominated comparators:**

MBS items relevant to morphological assessment and cytogenetic analysis are described in **Table 3**.

**Table 3 MBS items for morphological assessment and cytogenetic analysis**

<b>MBS items relevant to comparator</b>
<p><b>MBS item 65087</b>            Bone marrow - examination of aspirated material (including clot sections where necessary), including (if performed): any test described in item 65060, 65066 or 65070            Fee: \$83.10 Benefit: 75% = \$62.35 85% = \$70.65</p>
<p><b>MBS item 73290</b>            The study of the whole of each chromosome by cytogenetic or other techniques, performed on blood or bone marrow, in the diagnosis and monitoring of haematological malignancy (including a service in items 73287 or 73289, if performed). - 1 or more tests.            Fee: \$394.55 Benefit: 75% = \$295.95 85% = \$335.40</p>
<p><b>MBS item 73314</b>            Characterisation of gene rearrangement or the identification of mutations within a known gene rearrangement, in the diagnosis and monitoring of patients with laboratory evidence of:            (a) acute myeloid leukaemia; or            (b) acute promyelocytic leukaemia; or            (c) acute lymphoid leukaemia; or            (d) chronic myeloid leukaemia;            Fee: \$230.95 Benefit: 75% = \$173.25 85% = \$196.35</p>
<p><b>MBS item 73315</b>            A test described in item 73314, if rendered by a receiving APP - 1 or more tests            (Item is subject to rule 18)            Fee: \$230.95 Benefit: 75% = \$173.25 85% = \$196.35</p>
<b>MBS item numbers used for services performed to obtain the bone marrow sample</b>
<p><b>MBS item 20440</b>            INITIATION OF MANAGEMENT OF ANAESTHESIA for percutaneous bone marrow biopsy of the sternum (4 basic units)</p>

Fee: \$82.40 Benefit: 75% = \$61.80 85% = \$70.05
<b>MBS item 21112</b> INITIATION OF MANAGEMENT OF ANAESTHESIA for percutaneous bone marrow biopsy of the anterior iliac crest (4 basic units) Fee: \$82.40 Benefit: 75% = \$61.80 85% = \$70.05
<b>MBS item 21114</b> INITIATION OF MANAGEMENT OF ANAESTHESIA for percutaneous bone marrow biopsy of the posterior iliac crest (5 basic units) Fee: \$103.00 Benefit: 75% = \$77.25 85% = \$87.55
<b>MBS item 30081</b> DIAGNOSTIC BIOPSY OF BONE MARROW by trephine using open approach, where the biopsy specimen is sent for pathological examination (Anaes.) Fee: \$114.30 Benefit: 75% = \$85.75 85% = \$97.20
<b>MBS item 30084</b> DIAGNOSTIC BIOPSY OF BONE MARROW by trephine using percutaneous approach where the biopsy is sent for pathological examination (Anaes.) Fee: \$61.20 Benefit: 75% = \$45.90 85% = \$52.05
<b>MBS item 30087</b> DIAGNOSTIC BIOPSY OF BONE MARROW by aspiration or PUNCH BIOPSY OF SYNOVIAL MEMBRANE, where the biopsy is sent for pathological examination (Anaes.) Fee: \$30.60 Benefit: 75% = \$22.95 85% = \$26.05

**Provide a rationale for why this is a comparator:**

Prior to the introduction of MRD assessment, risk stratification and treatment decisions in AML were largely determined by diagnostic clinical and laboratory factors (age, white cell count, and cytogenetics). These offer limited capacity to tailor therapy based on treatment response, as most patients achieve morphological complete remission.

MRD monitoring enables clinicians to identify patients that can safely receive less intensive, less toxic therapy (those with undetectable MRD) and those who would benefit from more aggressive treatment (patients with detectable MRD). This approach ensures therapy intensity is matched to individual relapse risk, optimising both efficacy and tolerability. This is particularly relevant for selection of AML patients for allo-HSCT as this procedure should be reserved for higher risk patients as it is associated with a significant procedure-related mortality risk.

**Pattern of substitution – Will the proposed health technology wholly replace the proposed comparator, partially replace the proposed comparator, displace the proposed comparator or be used in combination with the proposed comparator?**

- ☐ None (used with the comparator)
- ☐ Displaced (comparator will likely be used following the proposed technology in some patients)
- ☒ Partial (in some cases, the proposed technology will replace the use of the comparator, but not all)

☐ Full (subjects who receive the proposed intervention will not receive the comparator)

**Outline and explain the extent to which the current comparator is expected to be substituted:**

MRD-AML testing by flow or molecular methods represents clinical best practice as recommended by the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) and ELN clinical practice guidelines.<sup>2, 5</sup> In Australia, MRD testing has been considered standard of care for more than 20 years;. However, as MRD-AML is not currently funded by the MBS, some patients may still undergo residual disease testing by morphology alone, particularly where out-of-pocket costs apply. If recommended for public funding, it would be expected that MRD testing would partially replace residual disease monitoring by morphology, noting that bone marrow biopsy will often still need to be performed (see **Figure 1**). Morphology may still be performed on bone marrow aspirates as interpretation of the MRD test is enhanced by a full assessment of haematopoiesis, including assessments of cellularity, dysplasia, fibrosis and other features. However for monitoring in remission, MRD is often conducted on peripheral blood (avoiding bone marrow aspirates), in which case there is a potential substitution for morphology.

## Outcomes

**List the key health outcomes (major and minor – prioritising major key health outcomes first) that will need to be measured in assessing the clinical claim for the proposed medical service/technology (versus the comparator):**

- ☒ Health benefits
- ☒ Health harms
- ☒ Resources
- ☐ Value of knowing

**Health benefits**

Prognostic value (i.e. informing safe avoidance of allo-HSCT)

Predictive value (i.e. response to allo-HSCT)

Change in management/treatment (informed by prognostic value) resulting in change in patient health outcomes: Mortality, Morbidity, Quality of life

**Health harms**

Test adverse events

Adverse events from subsequent treatment

Adverse events from change in patient management

**Health resources:**

Costs of test and treatments (avoidance of allo-HSCT)

## Proposed MBS items

**How is the technology/service funded at present? (e.g., research funding; State-based funding; self-funded by patients; no funding or payments):**

Despite being routinely performed, funding for MRD services is highly inconsistent across service providers. Hospitals rely on a mix of internal budgets (run at-cost or at a loss) and charitable support, with some centres asking patients for co-payments. Some patients access MRD-AML through clinical trials (e.g. AMLM26 Intercept).

**Provide at least one proposed item with their descriptor and associated costs, for each Population/Intervention:**

There are three draft items for the proposed services, related to MRD-NGS (**Table 4**), MRD-qPCR (**Table 5**), and MRD-MFC (**Table 6**).

**Table 4 Proposed item AAAAA, NGS**

MBS item number (where used as a template for the proposed item)	73310
Category number	6
Category description	Pathology services
Proposed item descriptor	Measurable residual disease (MRD) testing by next-generation sequencing, performed on bone marrow (or a peripheral blood sample if bone marrow cannot be collected) from a patient diagnosed with acute myeloid leukaemia, requested by a specialist or consultant physician practising as a haematologist or oncologist
Proposed MBS fee	<b>Fee:</b> \$950.00 <b>Benefit:</b> 75% = \$712.50 85% = \$845.50*
Indicate the overall cost per patient of providing the proposed health technology	\$950
Please specify any anticipated out of pocket expenses	\$0.00
Provide any further details and explain	*Greatest Permissible Gap (GPG) applies <a href="#">PN.0.35</a> applies: The number of measurable residual disease (MRD) tests per patient, per episode of disease or per relapse is not expected to exceed 12, inclusive of a baseline assessment. See cost breakdown attachment for more details.

**Table 5 Proposed item BBBBB, qPCR**

MBS item number (where used as a template for the proposed item)	73316
Category number	6
Category description	Pathology services
Proposed item descriptor	Measurable residual disease (MRD) testing by a quantitative molecular assay performed on bone marrow or peripheral blood collected from a patient diagnosed with acute myeloid leukaemia, requested by a specialist or consultant physician practising as a haematologist or oncologist
Proposed MBS fee	<b>Fee:</b> \$430.00 <b>Benefit:</b> 75%=\$322.50 85%=\$365.50
Indicate the overall cost per patient of providing the proposed health technology	\$430
Please specify any anticipated out of pocket expenses	\$0.00
Provide any further details and explain	<a href="#">PN.0.35</a> Applies: The number of measurable residual disease (MRD) tests per patient, per episode of disease or per relapse is not expected to exceed 12, inclusive of a baseline assessment.  See cost breakdown attachment for more details.

**Table 6 Proposed item CCCCC, MFC**

MBS item number (where used as a template for the proposed item)	71202
Category number	6
Category description	Pathology services
Proposed item descriptor	Measurable residual disease (MRD) testing by flow cytometry using a panel containing a minimum of 20 antibodies, performed on bone marrow from a patient diagnosed with acute myeloid leukaemia, requested by a specialist or consultant physician practising as a haematologist or oncologist
Proposed MBS fee	<b>Fee:</b> \$857.00 <b>Benefit:</b> 75%=\$642.75 85%=\$753.6

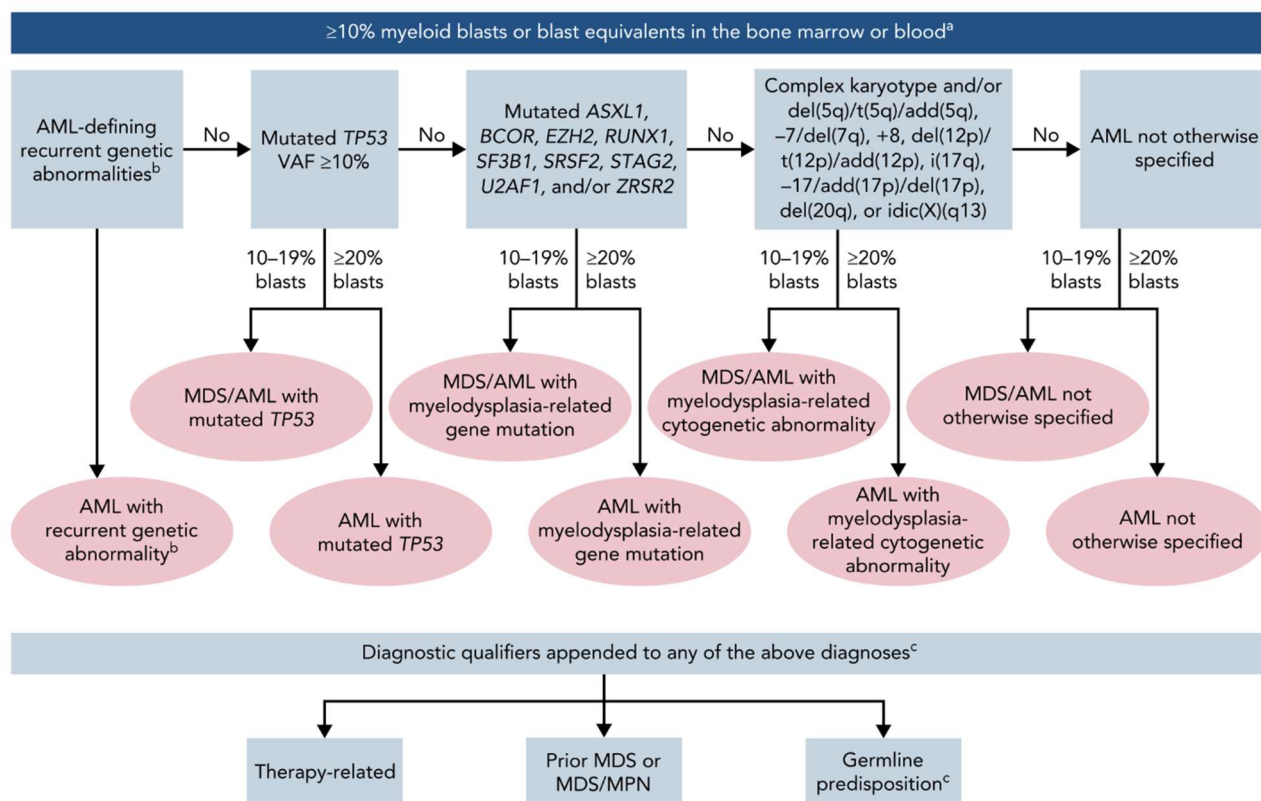
Indicate the overall cost per patient of providing the proposed health technology	\$857.00
Please specify any anticipated out of pocket expenses	\$0.00
Provide any further details and explain	<p><a href="#">PN.0.35</a> applies: The number of measurable residual disease (MRD) tests per patient, per episode of disease or per relapse is not expected to exceed 12, inclusive of a baseline assessment.</p> <p>See cost breakdown attachment for more details.</p>

## Algorithms

### **PREPARATION FOR USING THE HEALTH TECHNOLOGY**

**Define and summarise the clinical management algorithm, including any required tests or healthcare resources, before patients would be eligible for the proposed health technology:**

As noted previously, the diagnostic work-up of suspected AML includes complete blood count and differential count, bone marrow aspirate/trephine, immunophenotyping by flow cytometry, cytogenetics, and molecular testing.<sup>1, 6</sup> Baseline cytogenetic and molecular assessments are recommended for all newly diagnosed patients to aid in the identification of a traceable MRD marker.<sup>1, 2</sup> A summary of the classification of AML is provided in **Figure 3**.



**Figure 3 Hierarchical classification of the International Consensus Classification of AML**

Source: Döhner et al. 2022<sup>1</sup>

**Is there any expectation that the clinical management algorithm before the health technology is used will change due to the introduction of the proposed health technology?**

Yes.

**Describe and explain any differences in the clinical management algorithm prior to the use of the proposed health technology vs. the comparator health technology:**

MRD monitoring requires a trackable MRD marker to be identified at diagnosis via cytogenetic or FISH testing for the detection of fusion genes (e.g. *PML::RARA*), or rapid screening (e.g. capillary electrophoresis) to identify patients with *FLT3-ITD* or *NPM1* mutations.<sup>1</sup>

## **USE OF THE HEALTH TECHNOLOGY**

**Explain what other healthcare resources are used in conjunction with delivering the proposed health technology:**

The handling of AML patient bone marrow and peripheral blood samples in pathology laboratories is required as part of the preparation of AML blood and bone marrow specimens for histopathological review and for sample archiving purposes.<sup>1</sup> These services are outlined in the Comparator section, relating to services performed to obtain the bone marrow sample. No additional healthcare resources are required when MRD testing is performed using NGS, PCR or MFC-based assays.

**Explain what other healthcare resources are used in conjunction with the comparator health technology:**

All resources related to morphological assessment with or without cytogenetics are outlined in the Comparator section, including services performed to obtain the bone marrow sample. No additional resources are used in conjunction with the comparator health technology.

**Describe and explain any differences in the healthcare resources used in conjunction with the proposed health technology vs. the comparator health technology:**

N/A

**CLINICAL MANAGEMENT AFTER THE USE OF HEALTH TECHNOLOGY**

**Define and summarise the clinical management algorithm, including any required tests or healthcare resources, after the use of the proposed health technology:**

Following diagnosis and induction therapy, patients who achieve complete remission are monitored for relapse risk using MRD. MRD-negative patients continue standard consolidation and routine blood or marrow surveillance, while MRD-positive patients, who face higher relapse risk, may be considered for allo-HSCT or targeted/clinical trial therapies.<sup>1, 2</sup> The intensity of the preparatory chemotherapy and/or radiation treatment prior to the allo-HSCT procedure (called “conditioning therapy”) may be intensified from reduced intensity conditioning to myeloablative conditioning based on factors including MRD status. In addition, MRD charts are presented at weekly MDT meetings based on individual patient needs.

**Define and summarise the clinical management algorithm, including any required tests or healthcare resources, after the use of the comparator health technology:**

Without MRD testing, this surveillance relies on full blood examination (FBE) and periodic bone marrow biopsy to detect morphological relapse, which becomes apparent once bone marrow blasts exceed 5%. However, molecular or immunophenotypic relapse typically precedes morphologic relapse by several weeks to months, enabling earlier intervention to prevent overt AML relapse (necessitating reinduction chemotherapy) and potentially allows targeted treatments.<sup>10, 16</sup>

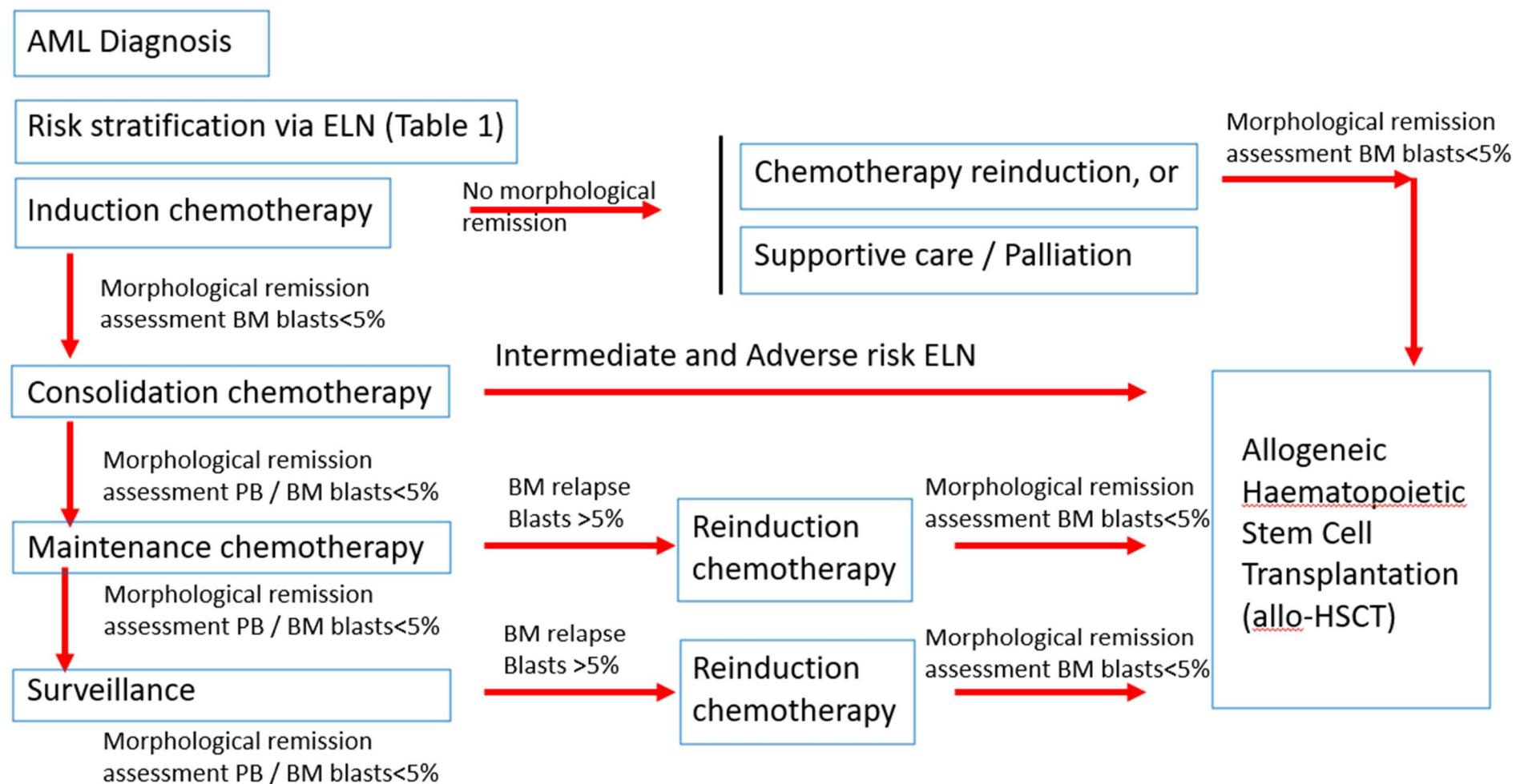
**Describe and explain any differences in the healthcare resources used after the proposed health technology vs. the comparator health technology:**

MRD status is used to inform treatment decisions, particularly around the suitability of allo-HSCT. MRD-positive individuals are more often referred earlier to allo-HSCT, or receive augmented consolidation therapy. MRD-negative patients may de-escalate (e.g. chemotherapy-only consolidation, omitting transplant in more favourable-risk patients). The ELN 2022 guideline embeds MRD into these decisions.<sup>1</sup> As a result, MRD-AML is likely to shift resource use rather than uniformly increase it, by increasing costs related to allo-HSCT workups in MRD-positive intermediate/adverse-risk, while decreasing costs related to transplants and high-intensity consolidation in sustained MRD-negative, favourable-risk patients.<sup>1</sup>

Earlier detection enables pre-emptive outpatient therapy, which is associated with fewer presentations with clinically unstable overt relapse. Morphology-only comparators relapse later and are typically sicker, often needing unplanned admissions, urgent cytoreduction and increased supportive care.

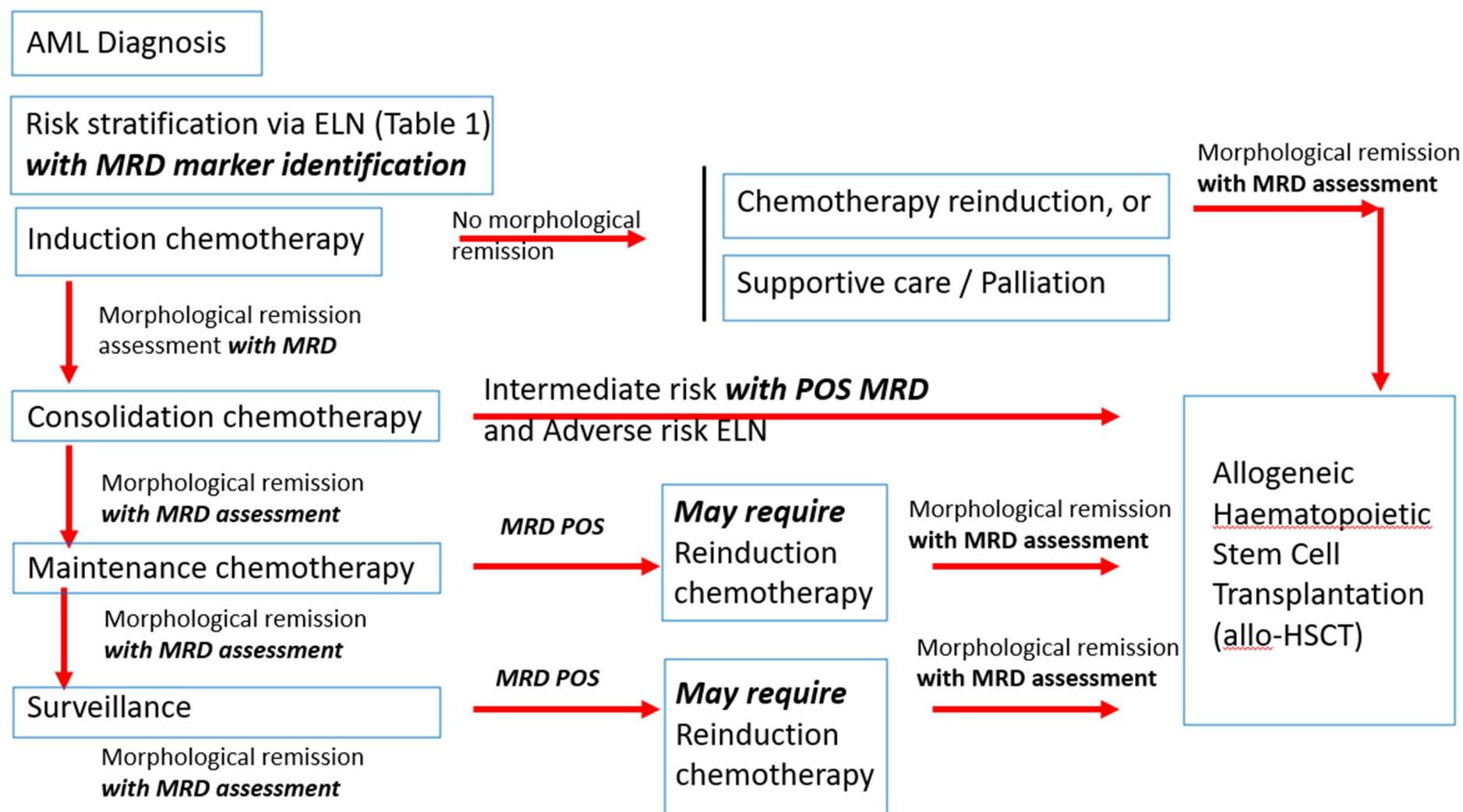


Insert diagrams demonstrating the clinical management algorithm with and without the proposed health technology:



**Figure 4 AML clinical management algorithm without proposed health technology**

AML = acute myeloid leukaemia; BM = bone marrow; ELN = European LeukemiaNet; PB = peripheral blood.



**Figure 5 AML clinical management algorithm with proposed health technology**

AML = acute myeloid leukaemia; ELN = European LeukemiaNet; MRD = measurable residual disease; POS = positive.

## Claims

**In terms of health outcomes (comparative benefits and harms), is the proposed technology claimed to be superior, non-inferior or inferior to the comparator(s)?**

- ☒ Superior  
☐ Non-inferior  
☐ Inferior

**Please state what the overall claim is, and provide a rationale:**

Relative to disease surveillance with morphological examination  $\pm$  cytogenetic testing, MRD testing is claimed to result in superior health outcomes, principally by enabling timely, risk-adapted interventions that improve relapse-free survival (with growing evidence for overall survival in defined subgroups).

MRD positivity is the strongest prognostic indicator in AML.<sup>10</sup> Relative to morphology  $\pm$  cytogenetic testing without MRD testing, MRD testing enables treating clinicians to better determine which patients will benefit from allo-HSCT and which can safely avoid allo-HSCT (i.e. lower risk patients). Further, MRD monitoring of patients in remission informs sub-morphological relapse, enabling earlier intervention with fewer associated complications.

**Why would the requestor seek to use the proposed investigative technology rather than the comparator(s)?**

As noted above, MRD testing is contemporary best practice for the monitoring of AML remission,<sup>1,2</sup> as a supplement to the comparator. MRD provides additional information compared to morphological examination  $\pm$  cytogenetic testing by providing a quantitative methodology to establish a deeper remission status, refine post remission relapse risk assessment, and identify impending relapse to enable early intervention.<sup>1</sup>

**Identify how the proposed technology achieves the intended patient outcomes:**

See previous response in the Intervention section.

**For some people, compared with the comparator(s), does the test information result in:**

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| <b>A change in clinical management?</b> | Yes |
| <b>A change in health outcome?</b>      | Yes |
| <b>Other benefits?</b>                  | No  |

**Please provide a rationale, and information on other benefits if relevant:**

MRD detection in patients achieving complete remission (CR or CRi) has clear prognostic value across both intensive and less-intensive treatment settings. Numerous studies and meta-analyses confirm its association with relapse risk and overall survival.<sup>10, 16, 18</sup> Detectable MRD before allo-HSCT predicts poorer post-transplant outcomes, but additional chemotherapy before transplant has not been shown to improve prognosis; such patients may instead benefit from more intensive myeloablative treatment conditioning or early immunosuppression tapering.<sup>1</sup> The strong prognostic information provided by MRD can be used to inform treatment decisions, particularly the avoidance of allo-HSCT in lower risk patients.

A key treatment decision informed by AML-MRD is the avoidance of allo-HSCT. Based on national cancer registry data, approximately 1,280 new AML cases are diagnosed annually in Australia, with a median age of 70 years.<sup>4</sup> Of these, approximately half (n=640) are patients under 70 who are likely to be fit for intensive chemotherapy,<sup>4</sup> and of whom around 200 (27–34%) have *NPM1*-mutated AML.<sup>19, 20</sup>

Under a non-MRD-guided approach, about 103 patients would undergo allo-HSCT: 78 with *FLT3*-ITD co-mutation and an estimated 25 additional patients receiving transplant in second remission after relapse.<sup>19, 21</sup>

Using an MRD-guided approach would result in around 76 transplants, with roughly 25% (50 patients) being MRD-positive after second chemotherapy and an estimated further 26 MRD-negative patients relapsing and later proceeding to transplant in CR2.<sup>10</sup> These patients will avoid the high risk of severe adverse events associated with allo-HSCT,<sup>22</sup> as well as the significant costs associated with allo-HSCT shared between hospital budgets and out-of-pocket copayments (mean \$246,855 per patient or ~\$6.67m total; unpublished data available upon request).

**In terms of the immediate costs of the proposed technology (and immediate cost consequences, such as procedural costs, testing costs etc.), is the proposed technology claimed to be more costly, the same cost or less costly than the comparator?**

- ☒ More costly  
☐ Same cost  
☐ Less costly

**Provide a brief rationale for the claim:**

Immediate costs associated with the proposed services will be higher than the comparator in the short term, as the proposed testing methods are intended to only partially offset morphology with or without cytogenetic analysis. However, the primary driver of cost-savings associated with MRD-AML testing relates to significant downstream offsets realised through the avoidance of allo-HSCT (total estimated cost savings of ~\$6.67m), and associated side effects, as noted above.<sup>23-25</sup>

**If your application is in relation to a specific radiopharmaceutical(s) or a set of radiopharmaceuticals, identify whether your clinical claim is dependent on the evidence base of the radiopharmaceutical(s) for which MBS funding is being requested. If your clinical claim is dependent on the evidence base of another radiopharmaceutical product(s), a claim of clinical noninferiority between the radiopharmaceutical products is also required.**

N/A

## Summary of Evidence

**Provide one or more recent (published) high quality clinical studies that support use of the proposed health service/technology. At 'Application Form lodgement',**

#	Study, design	Title of journal article or research project	Short description of research	Link
<b>Clinical practice guidelines</b>				
1	Döhner et al. 2022 <sup>1</sup> Clinical practice guideline	Diagnosis and management of AML in adults: 2022 recommendations from an international expert panel on behalf of the ELN	The updated 2022 European LeukemiaNet (ELN) recommendations integrate advances in AML genomics, MRD assessment, and targeted therapies. Revisions include an updated genetic risk classification, refined MRD response definitions, and modernised treatment recommendations reflect evolving molecular and therapeutic understanding.	<a href="#">PMID: 35797463</a>
2	Heuser et al 2021 <sup>5</sup> Clinical practice guideline	2021 Update on MRD in acute myeloid leukemia: a consensus document from the European LeukemiaNet MRD Working Party	The 2021 ELN MRD Working Party consensus statement updates the prior 2018 MRD recommendations for AML, reflecting major advances in flow cytometry and NGS technologies. It standardises MRD thresholds, timing, reporting, and integration across methods, emphasising harmonised application for prognosis, response assessment, and regulatory drug evaluation.	<a href="#">PMCID: PMC8718623</a>

#	Study, design	Title of journal article or research project	Short description of research	Link
3	NCCN 2025 <sup>2</sup> Clinical practice guideline	NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology: Acute Myeloid Leukaemia Version 2.2025	The 2025 NCCN AML guidelines emphasise MRD as a critical prognostic tool guiding post-remission therapy. Flow cytometry and qPCR are recommended, with bone marrow as the preferred sample. Persistent MRD (particularly NPM1, CBFB::MYH11, or RUNX1::RUNX1T1 positivity) indicates high relapse risk and may warrant clinical trial enrolment or allogeneic transplantation.	<a href="#">NCCN Guidelines</a>
<b>Using MRD to improve selection of patients for transplant</b>				
4	Venditti et al. 2019 <sup>30</sup> Prospective trial with historical controls	GIMEMA AML1310 trial of risk-adapted, MRD-directed therapy for young adults with newly diagnosed acute myeloid leukemia  NCT01452646 / EudraCT 2010-023809-36	In this trial, post-remission (n=361) therapy in de novo AML was assigned by genetic risk and post-consolidation MRD. Favourable-risk and MRD-negative intermediate-risk patients received autologous SCT, while poor-risk and MRD-positive intermediate-risk patients received allogeneic SCT. MRD-guided allocation improved outcomes, equating survival between MRD-positive intermediate and favourable-risk groups.	<a href="#">PMID: 31395600</a>
5	Tettero et al. 2023 <sup>31</sup> Propensity-score matched historical control	Measurable residual disease-guided therapy in intermediate-risk acute myeloid leukemia patients is a valuable strategy in reducing allogeneic transplantation without negatively affecting survival  NTR4376	In the HO132 trial (n=153 ELN intermediate-risk AML patients in complete remission with incomplete hematologic recovery), MRD after cycle 2 guided consolidation with or without allogeneic HSCT. MRD negativity (72%) predicted similar event-free and overall survival whether treated with allo- or auto-HSCT. Historical comparison confirmed MRD-guided therapy safely reduced transplants without compromising survival.	<a href="#">PMID: 37021540</a>

#	Study, design	Title of journal article or research project	Short description of research	Link
6	Fenwarth et al. 2021 <sup>32</sup> Retrospective cohort study	A personalized approach to guide allogeneic stem cell transplantation in younger adults with acute myeloid leukemia NCT00932412	In the ALFA-0702 trial (n=656 AML patients <60 years), a knowledge bank (KB) algorithm integrating molecular data improved survival prediction versus ELN 2017. HSCT in CR1 was detrimental for favourable-risk or NPM1 MRD-negative patients, but beneficial for poor-prognosis groups per KB modelling. Integrating KB predictions with ELN 2017 and MRD may thus represent a promising approach to optimise HSCT timing in younger AML patients.	<a href="#">PMID: 32871585</a>
8	Othman et al. 2024 <sup>33</sup> Retrospective cohort study	Postinduction molecular MRD identifies patients with NPM1 AML who benefit from allogeneic transplant in first remission ISRCTN55675535 and ISRCTN78449203	In 737 patients with NPM1-mutated AML in remission after induction, 19% were MRD positive. Allogeneic transplant in first remission significantly improved 3-year survival for MRD+ patients (61% vs 24%; HR 0.39), but not for MRD- patients (79% vs 82%). Benefits were consistent in FLT3-ITD-mutated subgroups.	<a href="#">PMID: 38364112</a>
9	Zhu et al. 2013 <sup>34</sup> Prospective cohort study	MRD-directed risk stratification treatment may improve outcomes of t(8;21) AML in the first complete remission: results from the AML05 multicenter trial ChiCTR-OCH-12002406	In 116 patients with t(8;21) AML in complete remission 1, MRD testing was used to direct HSCT (allo-HST for high-risk; chemo/autologous HSCT for low-risk). Allo-HSCT reduced relapse (22% vs 79%) and improved DFS (62% vs 20%) in high-risk patients, while chemotherapy or auto-HSCT achieved excellent DFS (95%) in low-risk cases, supporting MRD-guided post-remission therapy.	<a href="#">PMID: 23535063</a>

#	Study, design	Title of journal article or research project	Short description of research	Link
10	Balsat et al. 2017 <sup>35</sup>  RCT (Phase II)	Postinduction Minimal Residual Disease Predicts Outcome and Benefit From Allogeneic Stem Cell Transplantation in Acute Myeloid Leukemia With NPM1 Mutation: A Study by the Acute Leukemia French Association Group  NCT00932412	In the ALFA-0702 trial (n=229 NPM1-mutated AML), postinduction MRD was evaluable in 152 patients. Failure to achieve a $\geq 4$ -log NPM1 MRD reduction predicted higher relapse (SHR 5.83, P<0.001) and worse OS (HR 10.99, P<0.001). Allogeneic SCT improved survival only in MRD-poor responders, confirming NPM1 MRD as a predictive marker for transplant benefit.	<a href="#">PMID: 28056203</a>
<b>Monitoring MRD and treating at molecular relapse</b>				
11	Potter et al 2025 <sup>36</sup>  RCT (Phase III)	Molecular monitoring versus standard clinical care in younger adults with acute myeloid leukaemia: results from the UK NCRI AML17 and AML19 randomised, controlled, phase 3 trials  ISRCTN55675535, ISRCTN78449203	In the NCRI AML17 and AML19 phase III trials (n=637), patients with molecularly trackable AML were randomised to MRD monitoring or standard care. Overall survival at 3 years was similar (70% vs 73%; HR 1.11), but patients with baseline NPM1 and FLT3-ITD mutations demonstrated a survival benefit from MRD-guided management (69% vs 58%; HR 0.53, p=0.021).	<a href="#">PMID: 40306832</a>
12	Tiong et al. 2024 <sup>37</sup>  Phase II; Historical control	Targeting Molecular Measurable Residual Disease and Low-Blast Relapse in AML With Venetoclax and Low-Dose Cytarabine: A Prospective Phase II Study (VALDAC)  ACTRN12619000746134	In this prospective phase II study (n=48 adults, median age 67), venetoclax plus low-dose cytarabine was evaluated in AML patients with MRD or oligoblastic relapse. MRD reduction occurred in 69%, with 46% achieving MRD-negative remission; 73% attained CR/CRh/CRi. Estimated 2-year OS was 67% (95% CI, 50 to 89) in the MRD and 53% (95% CI, 34 to 84) in the oligoblastic relapse cohorts.	<a href="#">PMID: 38427924</a>



#	Study, design	Title of journal article or research project	Short description of research	Link
13	Jimenez-Chillon et al. 2024 <sup>38</sup> Retrospective case series	Venetoclax-based low intensity therapy in molecular failure of NPM1-mutated AML	In an international cohort of 79 patients with NPM1-mutated AML treated with venetoclax plus low-dose cytarabine or azacitidine for molecular relapse, 84% achieved $\geq 1$ -log MRD reduction and 71% became MRD negative. Two-year overall survival was 67%. Outcomes were inferior in FLT3-ITD-mutated cases, confirming venetoclax efficacy for molecular failure.	<a href="#">PMID: 38039513</a>
14	Platzbecker et al 2018 <sup>39</sup> Prospective case series	Measurable residual disease-guided treatment with azacitidine to prevent haematological relapse in patients with myelodysplastic syndrome and acute myeloid leukaemia (RELAZA2): an open-label, multicentre, phase 2 trial NCT01462578	In the RELAZA2 phase II trial (n=198 screened, 60 MRD positive), MRD-guided azacitidine was initiated upon molecular relapse detected by PCR or donor chimaerism. Six months after treatment, 58% of MRD-positive patients remained relapse-free. Persistent MRD negativity strongly correlated with favourable outcomes, confirming MRD as a prognostic and therapeutic marker.	<a href="#">PMID: 30442503</a>
15	Bataller et al 2020 <sup>40</sup> Cohort study	Acute myeloid leukemia with NPM1 mutation and favorable European LeukemiaNet category: outcome after preemptive intervention based on measurable residual disease	In the CETLAM-12 study (n=110 ELN-favourable NPM1-mutated AML), MRD monitoring identified molecular failure in 33 patients prompting pre-emptive therapy. An NPM1/ABL1 ratio $\geq 0.05$ after first consolidation predicted inferior 2-year molecular leukaemia-free survival (40% vs 77%). MRD-guided intervention improved outcomes, supporting its role in early relapse detection and treatment stratification.	<a href="#">PMID: 32510599</a>

#	Study, design	Title of journal article or research project	Short description of research	Link
16	Othman et al 2023 <sup>41</sup> Retrospective cohort study	FLT3 inhibitors as MRD-guided salvage treatment for molecular failure in FLT3 mutated AML	In 56 patients with FLT3-mutated AML treated for molecular failure, FLT3 inhibitor therapy (mainly gilteritinib) achieved molecular responses in 60% and MRD negativity in 45%. High-sensitivity NGS FLT3-ITD testing identified responders, supporting MRD-guided, pre-emptive FLT3 inhibition as an effective bridge-to-transplant or disease control strategy.	<a href="#">PMID: 37558736</a>
<b>Prognostic and predictive value</b>				
17	Othman et al. 2024 <sup>42</sup> Retrospective cohort study	Molecular MRD is strongly prognostic in patients with NPM1-mutated AML receiving venetoclax-based nonintensive therapy	Among patients with NPM1-mutated AML treated with venetoclax combinations (n=76), those achieving MRD negativity by cycle 4 had markedly superior outcomes, with 2-year overall survival of 84% versus 46% in MRD-positive patients. MRD negativity in the first 4 cycles was the strongest prognostic factor, predicting durable, treatment-free remission (HR 0.21, 95% CI 0.08-0.55).	<a href="#">PMID: 37647641</a>
18	Ivey et al. 2016 <sup>10</sup> Prospective cohort study	Assessment of Minimal Residual Disease in Standard-Risk AML ISRCTN55675535	In the NCRI AML17 trial (post-recruitment), 346 patients with NPM1-mutated AML received intensive chemotherapy. After two cycles, 15% had persistent NPM1 transcripts, predicting higher relapse (82% vs 30%) and lower 3-year survival (24% vs 75%). MRD positivity independently predicted death and reliably signalled relapse during remission.	<a href="#">PMID: 26789727</a>

#	Study, design	Title of journal article or research project	Short description of research	Link
19	Short et al. 2020 <sup>16</sup>  Meta-analysis	Association of Measurable Residual Disease With Survival Outcomes in Patients With Acute Myeloid Leukemia: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis	This meta-analysis (81 studies, 11,151 patients with AML) found MRD negativity strongly associated with improved survival. Five-year DFS was 64% vs 25% and OS 68% vs 34% for MRD-negative versus MRD-positive patients (HR $\approx$ 0.36). Benefits were consistent across age, subtype, and detection method, supporting MRD as a validated prognostic endpoint.	<a href="#">PMCID: PMC7545346</a>
20	McCarthy et al. 2024 <sup>43</sup>  Study of diagnostic accuracy	Pre-emptive detection and evolution of relapse in acute myeloid leukemia by flow cytometric measurable residual disease surveillance	In a retrospective cohort of 291 bone marrow samples from AML patients, flow cytometric MRD surveillance predicted relapse with 74% sensitivity and 87% specificity at an optimal diagnostic threshold of 0.04%. Flow MRD surveillance can detect MRD relapse in high risk AML and its evaluation may be enhanced by computational analysis.	<a href="#">PMID: 38890448</a>
21	Loo et al 2022 <sup>44</sup>  Cohort study	Pretransplant FLT3-ITD MRD assessed by high-sensitivity PCR-NGS determines posttransplant clinical outcome	In 104 adults with FLT3-ITD AML undergoing first allogeneic transplant in remission, pretransplant FLT3-ITD MRD was assessed by high-sensitivity PCR-NGS. MRD positivity ( $\geq$ 0.001%) predicted markedly worse outcomes: relapse 67–100% and 4-year survival $\leq$ 26%, versus 16% relapse and 74% survival in MRD-negative patients ( $<$ 0.001%).	<a href="#">PMCID: 10653044</a>

#	Study, design	Title of journal article or research project	Short description of research	Link
22	Loo et al. 2024 <sup>45</sup> Cohort study	Pretransplant MRD detection of fusion transcripts is strongly prognostic in <i>KMT2A</i> -rearranged acute myeloid leukemia	Pretransplant detection of <i>KMT2Ar</i> measurable residual disease $\geq 0.001\%$ by quantitative polymerase chain reaction was associated with significantly inferior posttransplant survival (2-year relapse-free survival 17% vs 59%; $P = .001$ ) and increased 2-year cumulative incidence of relapse (75% vs 25%, $P = .0004$ ).	<a href="#">PMID: 39316646</a>
23	Tiong et al. 2024 <sup>37</sup> Case series (phase II trial)	Targeting Molecular Measurable Residual Disease and Low-Blast Relapse in AML With Venetoclax and Low-Dose Cytarabine: A Prospective Phase II Study (VALDAC) ACTRN12619000746134	A phase II study evaluated venetoclax plus low-dose cytarabine in AML patients with MRD or oligoblastic relapse. Among 48 participants (median age 67), treatment was well tolerated and effective: 69% achieved MRD reduction, 73% CR/CRh/CRi, and 44% proceeded to transplant. Two-year overall survival exceeded 50% in both cohorts.	<a href="#">PMID: 38427924</a>
24	Tettero et al. 2022 <sup>46</sup> Meta-analysis and cost-analysis	Concordance in measurable residual disease result after first and second induction cycle in acute myeloid leukemia: An outcome- and cost-analysis	In a pooled analysis of HOVON-SAKK trials ( $n=273$ ; post-recruitment), MRD-AML by flow cytometry was assessed after one and two induction cycles. MRD negativity ( $<0.1\%$ ) at either point predicted significantly lower relapse and improved survival. Early MRD testing after cycle 1 showed strong concordance, safely reducing allogeneic donor searches and halving search costs.	<a href="#">PMCID: PMC9589259</a>

#	Study, design	Title of journal article or research project	Short description of research	Link
25	Dillon et al. 2023 <sup>47</sup>  Retrospective cohort study	DNA Sequencing to Detect Residual Disease in Adults With Acute Myeloid Leukemia Prior to Hematopoietic Cell Transplant	In a study of 822 adults with FLT3-ITD or NPM1-mutated AML undergoing first allogeneic transplant, pretransplant DNA sequencing detected residual variants in 17% of cases. MRD positivity ( $\geq 0.01\%$ ) predicted higher relapse (68% vs 21%) and lower 3-year survival (39% vs 63%), confirming the prognostic power of molecular MRD detection.	<a href="#">PMID: 36881031</a>
26	Croese et al 2025 <sup>48</sup>  Review article	Measurable residual disease monitoring in acute myeloid leukaemia: Techniques, timing and therapeutic implications	MRD detection in AML is now recognised as a key prognostic and therapeutic biomarker across treatment settings. Techniques such as flow cytometry, qPCR, and NGS enable sensitive disease quantification, guiding post-remission therapy, transplant decisions, and early intervention. Emerging applications include MRD-directed treatment cessation and integration into precision, response-adapted AML management.	<a href="#">PMID: 40617703</a>

**Identify yet-to-be-published research that may have results available in the near future (that could be relevant to your application).**

	<b>Type of study design</b>	<b>Title of journal article or research project</b>	<b>Short description of research</b>	<b>Source</b>
1.	AML M26 INTERCEPT platform trial Prospective case series	Investigating Novel Therapy to target Early Relapse and Clonal Evolution as Pre-emptive Therapy in AML  ACTRN12621000439842	The INTERCEPT study is an adaptive, multi-arm platform trial enrolling patients with AML in first or second remission who have measurable residual disease (MRD) markers. It evaluates sequential, biomarker-guided therapeutic combinations, rotating patients between arms upon MRD progression to demonstrate sustained anti-leukaemic activity across evolving treatment domains.	<a href="#">AML M26 INTERCEPT* platform trial</a>

*\*Early results presented at <https://doi.org/10.1182/blood-2024-202895>*

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