



a healthier world through  
sonographer expertise

Wednesday, 3 November 2021

MSAC Secretariat  
MDP 960  
GPO Box 9848  
ACT 2601

Via email: [commentsMSAC@health.gov.au](mailto:commentsMSAC@health.gov.au)

To the MSAC Secretariat,

Thank you for the invitation to provide feedback as part of the targeted consultation process to consider whether **Radiofrequency echographic multi spectrometry (REMS) for bone density measurement and determination of osteopenia/osteoporosis should be recommended for public funding**, as reflected in Medical Services Advisory Committee Application 1665.

The Australasian Sonographers Association (ASA), through its Sonographer Policy and Advisory Committee, have considered the application and have not identified any significant concerns with this proposal. However, we offer the following comments:

- Based on the information provided in the application, we note it could be a useful screening and diagnosis tool to measure bone density and determine osteopenia/osteoporosis.
- We note it may be used as an alternative to dual energy Xray absorptiometry (DXA) for some patients, with the benefit of avoiding exposure to ionising radiation.
- DXA is usually performed by radiographers, not sonographers, however we note that sonographers may have a role in undertaking REMS for bone density measurement and determination of osteopenia/osteoporosis, along with other identified health professionals.

We look forward to hearing about the outcomes of this consultation. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact the ASA Policy & Advocacy Advisor, James Brooks-Dowsett, by phone on +61 406 998 429 or email to [policy@sonographers.org](mailto:policy@sonographers.org).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Schroen', followed by a period.

**Ian Schroen**  
President  
The Australasian Sonographers Association