



the peak body and leading voice  
for sonographers

Tuesday, 12 June 2018

The Diagnostic Imaging Section  
Australian Government Department of Health  
MDP 951 GPO 9848  
ACT 2601

Email: [dimsac@health.gov.au](mailto:dimsac@health.gov.au)

**Re: MSAC application 1482 - New item numbers and rebates for mobile radiology services**

To whom it may concern,

The Australasian Sonographers Association is contacting you regarding immediate concerns on the *MSAC application 1482 - New item numbers and rebates for mobile radiology services*. The association is disappointed that the application doesn't recognise sonographers, as the principle health profession that provides medical diagnostic ultrasound services.

As the peak body for sonographers across Australia and New Zealand, the Australasian Sonographers Association is supportive of looking for solutions that improve Australians access to quality medical diagnostic imaging. Access these services can be particularly challenging for those who are frail or with mobility issues.

The ASA broadly supports the concept of a mobile diagnostic imaging, noting that it does already exist in some forms across Australia.

The MSAC application 1482 proposes new Medicare reimbursement for three x-ray services and three medical diagnostic ultrasound services (i.e. Abdominal ultrasound; Doppler ultrasound –venous; and Doppler ultrasound – arterial) provided in aged care facilities.

Disappointing the only health profession noted in the application is radiographer; whereas an accredited sonographer would be the minimum health professional required to perform a medical diagnostic ultrasound service under Medicare. Additionally, the association is not mentioned on the list of 'all appropriate professional bodies / organisations representing the group(s) of health professionals who provide the service'.

These glaring omissions significantly bring into question the rigour and consideration that has informed this application. The Australasian Sonographers Association strongly encourages the proposal address these issues before any further consideration of the merit of this service for specified funding under Medicare.

Thank you for taking the time to hear our immediate concerns. If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact James Brooks-Dowsett, Policy & Advocacy, phone on (03) 9552 0008 or email to [policy@sonographers.org](mailto:policy@sonographers.org)

Your sincerely,



*Jennifer Alphonse*

**Dr Jennifer Alphonse PhD**

President – Australasian Sonographers Association