Guaranteeing Medicare — Medicare Benefits Schedule — new and amended listings

This measure changes the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) to improve the consistency of benefits paid to patients.

From 1 July 2018:
- six new items will be available for the genetic testing of hereditary mutations in the cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator (CFTR) gene. These items will benefit patients clinically suspected of having a CFTR-related disorder, and help early diagnosis of pregnancies at high risk of cystic fibrosis, and
- two new items for Multiparametric Magnetic Resonance Imaging of the prostate to diagnose high-risk or monitor lower-risk prostate cancer. Currently low-to-medium risk patients are unnecessarily diagnosed with prostate cancer by an invasive biopsy procedure.

From 1 November 2018:
- a new item for percutaneous tibial nerve stimulation therapy to treat patients with overactive bladders will be added to the MBS
- a new item for the processing and cryopreservation of semen to preserve fertility in post-pubertal patients undergoing gonadotoxic treatment (e.g. chemotherapy or radiation therapy). The MBS rebate will not cover the ongoing storage costs of the semen sample
- changes will be made to MBS item 73805 to exclude urine dipstick testing, as it is considered to be part of a clinical consultation, and
- a new MBS item for expanded access by ophthalmologists to micro-invasive glaucoma surgery (MIGS) stent implantation for open-angle glaucoma.

Who is eligible?
These changes affect patients eligible for the above MBS items and health professionals who provide these services.

The date this will start and finish
The new and amended listings on the Medicare Benefits Schedule will have individual start dates. The first change starts on 1 July 2018. These changes are ongoing.