



Medicare Benefits Schedule Review

Renal Medicine

This factsheet outlines the key recommendations from the **MBS Review Taskforce's Renal Medicine Clinical Committee** report. For more detailed information on each recommendation, see the [summary for consumers](#) or read all recommendations in the [full report](#).



Number of items reviewed

7



Number of recommendations

6

✓ Key recommendations

Add a new MBS item to support access to dialysis in remote Australia

Access to dialysis services is limited in very remote areas of Australia. The majority of people in these areas are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples and have to relocate to urban areas to receive treatment. To improve access, the Committee is recommending a new MBS item to provide funding for the delivery of dialysis by nurses, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners and Aboriginal health workers in very remote areas.

Align funding of dialysis supervision with contemporary practice

Currently, funding for supervision of in-hospital dialysis only covers direct contact with a patient during a dialysis session. The Committee concluded that most of a nephrologist's (kidney specialist) involvement in caring for a dialysis patient is in overseeing patient treatment and planning their care, which does not always involve direct patient contact. The Committee is proposing a new item be created that will fund a week's worth of dialysis treatment, which will more closely reflect the care and supervision a patient receives during a dialysis session.



Indigenous Australians living in very remote areas are **19 times more likely** to have end stage kidney disease than non-Indigenous people*.

There should be ongoing and sustainable funding for adolescents and young adults with complex kidney disease

Young adults have the highest rate of kidney graft loss after a transplant than any other age group. The Committee concluded that better support is needed for this group, and recommended further investigation from an intergovernmental body or group to resolve the issue.



12,000 patients received dialysis in 2014–15. 4,400 of these patients received dialysis supervision under the MBS.

* Stumpers S, Thomson N (2013) Review of kidney disease and urologic disorders among Indigenous people. Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet.

About MBS Review

The MBS Review Taskforce is considering how more than 5,700 services can be aligned with contemporary clinical evidence and practice and improve health outcomes for patients. It is led by a Taskforce of clinicians, health system experts and consumer representatives.