

A Guide to Medicare Benefits Schedule Items 12325 and 12326

Retinal Photography with a Non-Mydriatic Retinal Camera

Background

- On 1 November 2016, the Australian Government introduced two Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) items – 12325 and 12326 – allowing medical practitioners providing primary glycaemic management of the patient to claim a rebate for obtaining and analysing retinal photographs and assessing distance vision for the detection of diabetic retinopathy in patients diagnosed with diabetes
- This item is intended for the provision of **retinal photography with a non-mydriatic (no pupil dilation) retinal camera**
- Any** element of this service may be **delegated** to appropriately trained or qualified personnel (such as a registered nurses, Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander health practitioners or workers, or diabetes educators) under the direction of the medical practitioner co-ordinating the patient's care, who retains overall responsibility for claiming of the service

Retinal photograph assessment

When reviewing the retinal photographs, the practitioner should assess the:

1. Quality of the photo:

- if a clear image cannot be obtained due to small pupils, mydriatic drops are permitted if the health service has an **approved protocol**
- if a clear image cannot be obtained for any other reason, the patient should be **referred to an optometrist for further assessment**

2. Presence of diabetic retinopathy :

- if diabetic retinopathy is not detected, best practice recommends the patient should be referred to an optometrist for a **comprehensive eye examination with pupil dilation**
- if diabetic retinopathy is detected, the patient should be **referred to an optometrist or ophthalmologist for further investigation** in accordance with the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) guidelines *

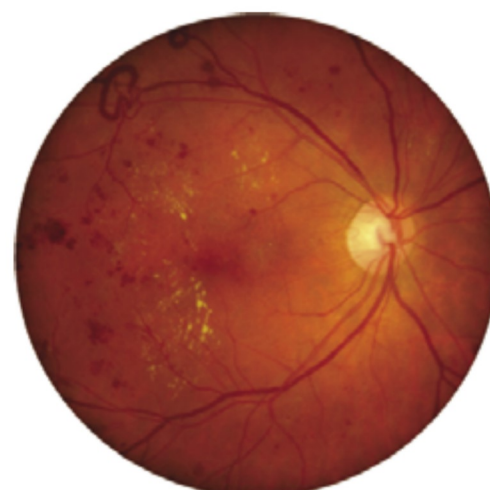
NOTES

- Anyone can have a photograph taken irrespective of billing eligibility (e.g. for patient education)**

- Consider linking with other billing options:**

715 – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Health Assessment (plus 10987 if applicable)

721 – Preparation of a GP Management Plan (GPMP) (plus 10997 if applicable)



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Information adapted from the Medicare website – www9.health.gov.au/mbs/fullDisplay.cfm?type=note&q=DN.1.19&q=noteID&criteria=12325

* NHMRC guidelines: https://www.optometry.org.au/wp-content/uploads/Professional_support/Guidelines/nhmrc_diabetic_guidelines.pdf

The following table outlines the required criteria for MBS items 12325 and 12326

The items 12325 and 12326 can be claimed for the assessment of visual acuity and bilateral retinal photography with a non-mydratic retinal camera, including analysis and reporting of the images for initial or repeat assessment for presence or absence of diabetic retinopathy, in a patient with medically diagnosed diabetes, if:

Eligibility criteria	12325 (Indigenous)	12326 (non-Indigenous)	Notes
	a) the patient is of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent	a) the patient is not of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent	
	b) the assessment is performed by the medical practitioner (other than an optometrist or ophthalmologist) providing the primary glycaemic management of the patient's diabetes		The medical practitioner remains responsible for the overall process and claiming the MBS item, but may delegate any aspect of the assessment to appropriately trained or qualified personnel
	b) this item and 12326 have not applied to the patient in the preceding 12 months	c) this item and 12325 have not applied to the patient in the preceding 24 months	The items can be billed once every 12 (12325) or 24 (12326) months
	c) the patient does not have any of the following, at the time of presentation:		
	i. an existing diagnosis of diabetic retinopathy ; or		No current diagnosis of diabetic retinopathy on the patient's medical records (including on their optometry or ophthalmology records, or letters imported into the medical records)
	ii. visual acuity of less than 6/12 in either eye; or		Patient's presenting distance visual acuity (VA)* must be 6/12 or better in both eyes
	iii. a difference of more than 2 lines of vision between the 2 eyes		Patient's presenting distance VA in each eye should not be different by more than 2 lines on the VA chart (e.g. if one eye sees 6/6, then the other eye needs to be 6/9 or better) <i>* If the patient normally wears glasses or contact lenses for distance vision (e.g. TV, driving) they should leave these on for VA assessment</i>



Information adapted from the Medicare website – www.mbsonline.gov.au
<http://www9.health.gov.au/mbs/fullDisplay.cfm?type=note&q=DN.1.19&qt=noteID&criteria=12325>

* NHMRC guidelines: https://www.optometry.org.au/wp-content/uploads/Professional_support/Guidelines/nhmrc_diabetic_guidelines.pdf