



Australian Government

Medicare Australia

**Final APS Ref.:** DPM13/08  
**Date of Effect:** 16 December 2010

**To bill an exercise stress test under Medicare (MBS Item 11712), does the rendering medical practitioner have to be physically present with the patient for the duration of the test, being no less than 20 minutes?**

### **Clarification**

There was ambiguity around personal attendance requirements by the rendering medical practitioner for an exercise stress test, in relation to MBS item 11712. It was not clear whether the term 'a medical practitioner' in the MBS item descriptor referred to the medical practitioner rendering MBS Item 11712 and if it was the same medical practitioner billing the item.

Legislation in the Health Insurance (General Medical Services Table) Regulations 2010 (GMST) has been amended on 1 November 2010 for MBS Item 11712 – Stress Test. Under 1.2.8 of the GMST, the change allows the service to be provided by or on behalf of the rendering medical practitioner.

### **What does the item descriptor say?**

**The Health Insurance (General Medical Services Table) Regulations 2010 as at 10 November 2010 defines item 11712 as follows.**

- Item 11712 – *Multi channel ECG monitoring and recording during exercise (motorised treadmill or cycle ergometer capable of quantifying external workload in watts) or pharmacological stress, involving the continuous attendance of a medical practitioner for not less than 20 minutes, with resting ECG, and with or without continuous blood pressure monitoring and the recording of other parameters, on premises equipped with mechanical respirator and defibrillator.*



## What does the legislation say?

The Health Insurance (General Medical Services Table) Regulations 2010 as at 10 November 2010 provides the following relevant information:

### 1.2.8 Services that may be provided by persons other than medical practitioners

- (1) Use this clause for items 11000, 11003, 11004, 11005, 11006, 11009, 11024, 11027, 11200, 11203, 11204, 11205, 11210, 11211, 11215, 11218, 11221, 11222, 11224, 11225, 11235, 11237, 11240, 11241, 11242, 11243, 11300, 11303, 11306, 11309, 11312, 11315, 11318, 11321, 11324, 11327, 11330, 11332, 11333, 11336, 11339, 11503, 11506, 11509, 11512, 11602, 11604, 11605, 11610, 11611, 11612, 11614, 11615, 11700, 11702, 11708, 11709, 11710, 11711, 11712, 11713, 11715, 11718, 11721, 11800, 11810, 11830, 11833, 11900, 11903, 11906, 11909, 11912, 11915, 11919, 12012, 12015, 12018, 12021, 12200, 12203, 12207, 12210, 12213, 12215, 12217, 12500 to 12530, 13020, 13025, 13200 to 13203, 13206, 13212, 13215, 13218, 13221, 13703, 13706, 13709, 13750, 13755, 13757, 13760, 13915 to 13948, 14050, 14053, 14218, 14221, 15000 to 15336, 15339 to 15357, 15500 to 15539, 16514 and 17610 to 17690.
- (2) The item applies whether the medical service is given by:
  - (a) a medical practitioner or
  - (b) a person, other than a medical practitioner, who:
    - (i) is employed by a medical practitioner or
    - (ii) in accordance with accepted medical practice, acts under the supervision of a medical practitioner.

### ***Application of this APS***

As a result of legislative changes, an APS is no longer required.