

Medicare Pathology Item Limits

Reference: MBS Online – January 2012

The following table summarises common tests ordered at Medlab Pathology with explanations on item limits for these types of investigations, as set out in the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS).

MBS Item	Test Name	MBS Rules and Comments
65175	Activate Protein C (APC) Resistance	Patient has a history of venous thromboembolism
65175	Anti-thrombin	Patient has a history of venous thromboembolism
66819	Copper, Zinc, Manganese, Selenium	3 patient episodes in 6 month period
73300	Factor V Leiden Gene Mutation PCR	Proven venous thrombosis or pulmonary embolism
69345 69336 69339	Faeces for culture and Ova, Cysts and Parasites (OCP) examination	Culture – 1 request in a 7 day period OCP – 2 requests in a 7 day period
66719	Free T4 (FT4); Free T _e (FT3)	At least one of the following conditions is satisfied: (a) the patient has an abnormal level of TSH; (b) the tests are performed: (i) for the purpose of monitoring thyroid disease in the patient; or (ii) to investigate the sick euthyroid syndrome if the patient is an admitted patient; or (iii) to investigate dementia or psychiatric illness of the patient; or (iv) to investigate amenorrhoea or infertility of the patient; (c) the medical practitioner who requested the tests suspects the patient has a pituitary dysfunction; (d) the patient is on drugs that interfere with thyroid hormone metabolism or function
66557	Fructosamine	Maximum of 4 tests in a 12 month period for established diabetes
66551	HbA1c	Maximum of 4 tests in a 12 month period for established diabetes
66554	HbA1c (in pregnancy)	Maximum of 6 tests in a 12 month period for established diabetes in pregnancy
69491	Hepatitis C virus (HCV) genotype	(a) the patient is HCV RNA positive and is being evaluated for antiviral therapy of chronic HCV hepatitis; and (b) the request for the test is made by, or on the advice of, the specialist or consultant physician managing the treatment of the patient; Maximum of 1 test in a 12 month period
71075	Immunoglobulin E (IgE) - Total	2 patient episodes in a 12 month period
71057	Protein EPG	1 specimen type collected within a 28 day period
66655	Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) – Total (Screening)	1 patient episodes in a 12 month period
66660	PSA (Total & Free)	Result between age-related reference limit and 10 ug/ml 4 patient episodes in a 12 month period
71079	Specific IgE antibodies to single or multiple allergens (RAST)	4 patient episodes in a 12 month period
66626	Urine Drug Screen (UDS) - monitoring	36 patient episodes in a 12 month period
66599	Vitamin B12, Serum Folate or Red Cell Folate	3 patient episodes (any test combination) in a 12 month period



PLEASE NOTE: Information is subject to change without notice. For latest and most up-to-date information, always refer to your current MBS documents, or online at:

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/mbsonline/publishing.nsf/Content/Medicare-Benefits-Schedule-MBS-1>

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