



Diagnostic Imaging – Information

Changes to icare workers compensation diagnostic imaging accreditation standards and maximum fees

On 1 June 2018 icare introduced a new maximum fees list and accreditation standards for diagnostic imaging services provided to workers compensation patients covered by icare.

What's changed?

icare maximum fees list for diagnostic imaging services

- You can download the icare maximum fees list with relevant Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) codes on the icare website's [Fees and payments in the workers compensation system page](#). The maximum fees list also includes the corresponding Australian Medical Association codes for reference.

Accreditation standards

- Currently there are no specific quality standards required of diagnostic imaging practices servicing workers compensation patients in NSW.
- Under the MBS, diagnostic imaging providers must be accredited in accordance with the Diagnostic Imaging Accreditation Scheme (DIAS) to attract a Medicare rebate.
- icare is now expecting practices servicing our workers compensation customers to meet DIAS standards.

How do the changes affect you?

Workers

- There is no change to the process for a worker to receive diagnostic imaging services.
- Any services requiring pre-approval still need to be sent to the Case Manager.
- Workers **do not have to pay any gap** for services provided or pay for the service up front. The provider should invoice the Scheme Agent directly for any services provided.

Case Managers/Scheme Agents

- The pre-approval process for diagnostic imaging services *has not changed*.
- Any pre-approval should clearly specify that workers do not need to pay for services up front. Workers should be assured that they are not required to pay any gap.

Medical practitioners

- There is **no change** to the referral process or changes to the services that medical practitioners provide to workers compensation patients.

Diagnostic imaging providers

– Patient prioritisation

- icare expects providers to provide diagnostic imaging services **based on clinical need**. This is consistent with the ethical and professional standards laid out in the Medical Board of Australia's Code of Conduct.

– Accreditation

- icare is giving providers until 1 October 2018 to obtain the DIAS minimum entry level standards for accreditation. They will have a further two years to obtain full accreditation.

– icare maximum fees list for diagnostic imaging services

- icare's maximum fees list applies to diagnostic imaging services provided to workers compensation

patients covered by icare from 1 June 2018.

- Providers must also include the relevant MBS codes on invoices. Diagnostic imaging service providers can continue to send invoices directly to the Scheme Agent.
- All diagnostic imaging services continue to require pre-approval except for the exemptions to this requirement under the current *Guidelines for Claiming Workers Compensation* for diagnostic investigations.

Who can I contact if I have any further queries?

- For any general approval and payment queries, please contact the Case Manager.
- For any queries regarding the changes to icare's workers compensation diagnostic imaging accreditation standards and maximum fees contact icare at DiagnosticImaging@icare.nsw.gov.au