



Australian Government
Department of Health and Aged Care

Ms Jane Griffith
Chief Executive Officer
Day Hospitals Australia
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Dear Ms Griffith

I am writing to inform you that the private health insurance reclassification of intravitreal eye injections (current MBS item 42738) has been deferred from 1 July 2025 to 1 July 2026.

As you would be aware, in the 2024-25 Budget the Australian Government agreed to implement the recommendations of the MBS Taskforce relating to ophthalmology on 1 July 2025. This included reclassifying the private health insurance procedure type for intravitreal eye injections performed as an independent procedure without an anaesthetist (current MBS item 42738).

The MBS Taskforce recommended that item 42738 be updated from a Type B to Type C procedure type to reflect that it is a procedure which does not normally require hospital treatment and can be safely performed out-of-hospital. No change to the private health insurance type was proposed for MBS item 42739, which allows for intravitreal eye injections where an anaesthetic is administered by an anaesthetist.

The deferral of the change to the procedure type for MBS item 42738 will support further consultation to better understand the impact on patients and to consider options for supporting access to affordable intravitreal eye injection services.

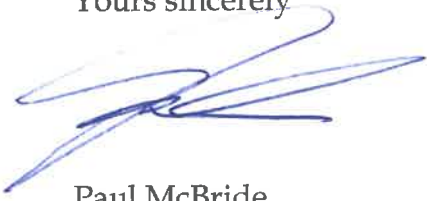
I seek your assistance in advising your members of this deferral.

Further details on opportunities to contribute to the consultation process will be provided in the coming months.

All other changes to ophthalmology services will be implemented on 1 July 2025 as scheduled.

If you have any queries, please contact please contact Alastair Wilson, Director Regulations Section, Private Health Strategy Branch via Private Health Insurance mailbox at PHI@gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Paul McBride
Assistant Secretary
Private Health Strategy Branch

11 March 2025