

# MBS Review Taskforce - Pathology Endocrine Tests

## 1. Recommendation 1 - TSH (thyroid-stimulating hormone)

Do you agree with Recommendation 1 which proposes to provide clearer guidance on when the test for item 66716 is appropriate for doctors to request?

Refer to [Section 5.1.1](#) and the [Summary for consumers](#).

Yes

## 2. Recommendation 2 - TFTs (thyroid function tests)

Do you agree with Recommendation 2 which proposes to allow the pathologist to determine when 66719 is necessary based on the initial TSH test?

Refer to [Section 5.1.2](#) and the [Summary for consumers](#).

Yes

## 3. Recommendation 3 – New item for TFTs (thyroid function tests)

Do you agree with Recommendation 3 which proposes to create a new MBS item that includes the measurement of all thyroid hormone levels in patients with totally suppressed thyroid-stimulating hormone (TSH)?

Refer to [Section 5.1.3](#) and the [Summary for consumers](#).

Yes

## 4. Recommendation 4 – Oral glucose tolerance and challenge tests

Do you agree with Recommendation 4 which proposes to remove item 66545 (Oral glucose challenge test) from the MBS and consolidate items 66542 under 66548 and include use in pregnant women and certain specific patient groups?

Refer to [Section 5.2.1](#) and the [Summary for consumers](#).

Yes, with some changes

## 5. Please provide suggested changes, including your reasoning or evidence

OGTT 66545 should be removed from the MBS and this should be accompanied by an education campaign specifically targeting obstetricians. The items 66548 and 66542 should be kept separate for reasons given by the Pathology Clinical Committee.

## 6. Recommendation 5 – Quantitation of glycated haemoglobin (a test for diabetes)

Do you agree with Recommendation 5 which proposes to make it clear in the item descriptor that 66551 is restricted under rule 25 to a maximum of four tests per year and 66554 to a maximum of six tests per year?

Refer to [Section 5.2.2](#) and the [Summary for consumers](#).

Yes, with some changes

## 7. Please provide suggested changes, including your reasoning or evidence

Whether changes should be accommodated within a descriptor or explanatory notes should be determined by practical considerations, including the need to simplify the MBS. Primary consideration should be given to the overarching goal of informing requestors so they request appropriately, rather than increasing the workload of laboratories to chase up missing information from request forms or otherwise penalising laboratories.

**8. Recommendation 6 - Quantitation of glycated haemoglobin (a test for diabetes)**

Do you agree with Recommendation 6 which proposes to increase the maximum number of tests for item 66841 to two per year and also provide clearer guidance on medical situations in which the test should be used?

Refer to [Section 5.2.3](#) and the [Summary for consumers](#).

Yes, with some changes

**9. Please provide suggested changes, including your reasoning or evidence**

Whether changes should be accommodated within a descriptor or explanatory notes should be determined by practical considerations, including the need to simplify the MBS. Primary consideration should be given to the overarching goal of informing requestors so they request appropriately, rather than increasing the workload of laboratories to chase up missing information from request forms or otherwise penalising laboratories.

**10. Recommendation 7 - Quantitation of fructosamine (glycated albumin)**

Do you agree with Recommendation 7 which proposes to provide clearer guidance on when the test for item 66557 is appropriate to use?

Refer to [Section 5.2.4](#) and the [Summary for consumers](#).

Yes

**11. Recommendation 8 – Microalbumin (a test to detect kidney problems)**

Do you agree with Recommendation 8 which proposes to change the title of the test for item 66560 to 'albumin:creatinine ratio' and provide clearer guidance on the specific medical situations in which the test is appropriate and the number of times it should be performed?

Refer to [Section 5.2.5](#) and the [Summary for consumers](#).

Yes

**12. Recommendation 9 – Quantitation of hormones and hormone-binding proteins**

Do you agree with Recommendation 9 which proposes no changes be made to items 66695-66698, 66701, 66704 and 66707 in regards to the quantitation of hormones and hormone-binding proteins?

Refer to [Section 5.3](#) and the [Summary for consumers](#).

Yes, with some changes

**13. Please provide suggested changes, including your reasoning or evidence**

Unable to confirm without full review and report by the Chemical Working Group under the Pathology Clinical Committee.

**14. Recommendation 10 – Thyroid antibodies to tissue antigens**

Do you agree with Recommendation 10 which proposes no changes be made to items 71165-71170?

Refer to [Section 5.4](#) and the [Summary for consumers](#).

Yes, with some changes

**15. Please provide suggested changes, including your reasoning or evidence**

Unable to confirm without full review and report by the Immunology Working Group and Chemical Working Group under the Pathology Clinical Committee.

**16. Recommendation 11 – Quantitation of products of collagen breakdown formation**

Do you agree with Recommendation 11 which proposes no changes be made to items 66773 and 66776?

Refer to [Section 5.5](#) and the [Summary for consumers](#).

Yes, with some changes

**17. Please provide suggested changes, including your reasoning or evidence**

Unable to confirm without full review and report by the Chemical Working Group under the Pathology Clinical Committee.

**18. Recommendation 12 – Adrenaline and other tests**

**Do you agree with Recommendation 12 which proposes no changes be made to items 66779 and 66780?**

*Refer to [Section 5.6](#) and the [Summary for consumers](#).*

Yes, with some changes

**Please provide suggested changes, including your reasoning or evidence**

Unable to confirm without full review and report by the Chemical Working Group under the Pathology Clinical Committee.

**19. Recommendation 13 – 1, 25-dihydroxivitamin D quantification**

**Do you agree with Recommendation 13 which proposes no changes be made to items 66835, 66836 and 66837 as they've recently been reviewed and updated?**

*Refer to [Section 5.7](#) and the [Summary for consumers](#).*

Yes

**20. Recommendation 14 – Hormones and other tests**

**Do you agree with Recommendation 14 which proposes no changes be made to item 66686?**

*Refer to [Section 5.8](#) and the [Summary for consumers](#).*

Yes, with some changes

**21. Please provide suggested changes, including your reasoning or evidence**

Unable to confirm without full review and report by the Chemical Working Group under the Pathology Clinical Committee.

**22. Recommendation 15 – Quantification in saliva of cortisol**

**Do you agree with Recommendation 15 which proposes no changes be made to items 66711-66712 and 66714-66715?**

*Refer to [Section 5.9](#) and the [Summary for consumers](#).*

Yes

**23. Recommendation 16 - Obsolete items**

**Do you agree with Recommendation 16 which proposes to remove item 66539 from the MBS and instead consider funding two new items for the genetic testing of patients with hereditary high cholesterol and markedly high cholesterol?**

*Refer to [Section 5.10](#) and the [Summary for consumers](#).*

Yes

**25. Below are some statements about the Pathology Clinical Committee - Endocrine Tests draft report. For each statement, please indicate whether you agree or disagree.**

Note: This question has randomized rows

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't know / Prefer not to say
The Clinical Committee report was easy to understand				X		
The Summary for consumers included in the Clinical Committee report was easy to understand				X		
There was enough information provided in the Clinical Committee report for me to understand the recommendations				X		
There was enough information provided in the Clinical Committee report to support the recommendations				X		

**26. Please provide any further comments or suggestions about the recommendations included in the Pathology Clinical Committee - Endocrine Tests draft report in the space below.**

Recommendations yet to be considered by the Chemical Working Group (or other pathology specialty groups) under the Pathology Clinical Committee should be excluded from this report and survey.

**27. Please provide any further comments or suggestions in relation to consumer content within the draft report.**

Consumers may be confused about recommendations coming from two specialty groups; being the Pathology Clinical Committee and the Endocrine Committee. It is strongly suggested that recommendations for changes to any Pathology Items under the MBS come directly from the Pathology Clinical Committee (and its Working Groups) only rather than other specialty groups.

**28. Are you responding to this consultation as an individual or as a member of an organisation?**

***If you work within a peak body or health care organisation, please indicate whether you will be primarily answering from an individual or organisational perspective.***

I am responding on behalf of an ORGANISATION

**29. Please provide the name of the organisation you are responding on behalf of.**

Public Pathology Australia

**What type of organisation are you responding on behalf of?**

***Please just give your best guess if you are unsure.***

Peak Body or advocacy organisation

**30. In which jurisdictions does your organisation operate?**

***Please select all those that apply***

All Australian States and Territories

**31. The MBS Review Taskforce would like to access each full response made to this consultation to inform the recommendations for the final version of the report.**

**Do you consent to your, or your organisation's response to this survey being provided to the MBS Review Taskforce and Clinical Committee via the Department of Health?**

Yes, I consent to my organisation's response (including demographic details) being provided to the MBS Review Taskforce and Clinical Committee

**32. Please provide your name, organisation details and email address.**

Organisation : Public Pathology Australia

Role : CEO

Email address : ceo@publicpathology.org.au

**33. The MBS Review Taskforce would like to publish a sample of comments made to this consultation.**

**Do you consent to the comments you made as part of this survey being published by the MBS Review Taskforce?**

Yes, I consent to my comments being published and attributed to my organisation

**34. Do you want to review your response?**

Yes