



Summary of New Items – Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (rTMS) Therapy

Last updated: 29 October 2021

- Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (rTMS) is a form of localised brain stimulation therapy used to treat depression. The therapy involves using a magnet to target and stimulate the region of the brain involved in mood regulation and depression. rTMS is a non-invasive form of therapy that does not require sedation with anaesthesia.
- From 1 November 2021, rTMS therapy will be listed on the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) under new items 14216, 14217, 14219 and 14220 for the treatment of major depressive disorder.
- The Australian Government announced this new listing in the 2021-22 Budget with an investment of \$288.5 million over four years, following recommendations of the Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC).
- Previously, rTMS was not subsidised on the MBS.
- The information in this document should be read in conjunction with the Fact Sheets, Explanatory Notes, and other information available on the MBS Online website (www.mbsonline.gov.au).

The item descriptors and MBS schedule fees and benefits for the new items are set out below.

Category 3 – Therapeutic Procedures

Group 1 – Miscellaneous Therapeutic Procedures

Subgroup 13 – Other Therapeutic Procedures

Item	Description	MBS Schedule Fee (\$)
14216	Professional attendance on a patient by a psychiatrist, who has undertaken training in Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (rTMS), for treatment mapping for rTMS, if the patient: (a) has not previously received any prior transcranial magnetic stimulation therapy in a public or private setting; and (b) is at least 18 years old; and (c) is diagnosed with a major depressive episode; and	186.40



(d) has failed to receive satisfactory improvement for the major depressive episode despite the adequate trialling of at least 2 different classes of antidepressant medications, unless contraindicated, and all of the following apply:

- (i) the patient's adherence to antidepressant treatment has been formally assessed;
- (ii) the trialling of each antidepressant medication has been at the recommended therapeutic dose for a minimum of 3 weeks;
- (iii) where clinically appropriate, the treatment has been titrated to the maximum tolerated therapeutic dose; and

(e) has undertaken psychological therapy, if clinically appropriate

MBS Benefit: 75% = \$139.80 85% = \$158.45

14217	Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (rTMS) treatment of up to 35 services provided by, or on behalf of, a psychiatrist who has undertaken training in rTMS, if the patient has previously received a service under item 14216—each service up to 35 services	160.00
-------	---	--------

MBS Benefit: 75% = \$120.00 85% = \$136.00

14219	Professional attendance on a patient by a psychiatrist, who has undertaken training in Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (rTMS), for treatment mapping for rTMS, if the patient:	186.40
-------	---	--------

- (a) is at least 18 years old; and
- (b) is diagnosed with a major depressive episode; and
- (c) has failed to receive satisfactory improvement for the major depressive episode despite the adequate trialling of at least 2 different classes of antidepressant medications, unless contraindicated, and all of the following apply:
 - (i) the patient's adherence to antidepressant treatment has been formally assessed;
 - (ii) the trialling of each antidepressant medication has been at the recommended therapeutic dose for a minimum of 3 weeks;
 - (iii) where clinically appropriate, the treatment has been titrated to the maximum tolerated therapeutic dose; and



(d) has undertaken psychological therapy, if clinically appropriate;
and

(e) has previously received an initial service under item 14217 and
the patient:

(i) has relapsed after a remission following the initial service;
and

(ii) has had a satisfactory clinical response to the service under
item 14217 (which has been assessed by a validated major
depressive disorder tool at least 4 months after receiving that
service)

MBS Benefit: 75% = \$139.80 85% = \$158.45

14220	Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (rTMS) treatment of up to 15 services provided by, or on behalf of, a psychiatrist who has undertaken training in rTMS, if the patient has previously received:	160.00
-------	--	--------

(a) a service under item 14217 (which was not provided in the
previous 4 months); and

(b) a service under item 14219

Each service up to 15 services

MBS Benefit: 75% = \$120.00 85% = \$136.00
