Statutory Rules 1992 No. 273[1]

Health Insurance (1992 Pathology Services Table) Regulations [2] (Amendment)

I, THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL of the Commonwealth of Australia, acting with the advice of the Federal Executive Council, make the following Regulations under the *Health Insurance Act 1973*.

Dated 19 August 1992.

BILL HAYDEN
Governor-General

By His Excellency's Command,

PETER STAPLES
Minister of State for Aged, Family and Health Services
for and on behalf of the
Minister of State for Health, Housing and Community Services

1. Commencement

1.1 These Regulations commence on 1 September 1992.

2. Amendment

2.1 The Health Insurance (1992 Pathology Services Table) Regulations are amended as set out in these Regulations.

3. Schedule (Table of pathology services)

3.1 Rule 1 (definition of "patient episode"):

Omit the definition, substitute:

"'**patient episode'** means:

(a) a pathology service to which rule 3A refers that is provided in the circumstances described in that rule that relate to the service; and

(b) except in the case of a pathology service to which paragraph (a) refers-

– a pathology service or pathology services, whether specified in a single item or in more than 1 items, provided for a single patient whose need for the service or services was determined under subsection 16A (1) of the Act on the same day, whether rendered by an approved pathology practitioner or more than 1 approved pathology practitioner on the same day or on different days;".

3.2 Rule 1:

Add at the end:

"(3) Unless the contrary intention appears, a reference in this table by number to an item that is not included in this table is a reference to the correspondingly numbered item in the general medical services table or the diagnostic imaging services table, as each case requires.".

3.3 Subrule 3 (2):

Before "2 or more", insert "Subject to rule 3A,".

3.4 After rule 3, insert:

"3A. (1) Rule 3 does not apply to:

(a) a pathology service specified in item 66201, other than an estimation of cholesterol, fructosamine, lithium or triglycerides; or

(b) the quantitative estimation of 1 or more fractions of neonatal bilirubin specified in item 66273;

if:

(c) the service is rendered in relation to a single specimen taken on each of not more than 4 occasions in a period of 24 hours; and

(d) the service is rendered to a patient in a hospital unit where:

(i) the presence of 1 nurse is required for each group of not more than 4 patients; and

(ii) the condition of the patients is continuously observed in relevant respects; and

(e) in order to render the service, an approved pathology practitioner who is a recognised pathologist has to arrange for a member of the laboratory staff of the approved pathology authority concerned to undertake duties in respect of the service that are in addition to the usual duties of the staff member.

"(2) Rule 3 does not apply to any of the following pathology services rendered in relation to a single specimen taken on each of not more than 6 occasions in a period of 6 months:

(a) estimation of prothrombin time in respect of a patient undergoing anticoagulant therapy;
(b) quantitative estimation of lithium in respect of a patient undergoing lithium therapy;
(c) a service specified in item 65007 in relation to a patient undergoing chemotherapy for neoplastic disease or immunosuppressant therapy;
(d) a service specified in item 65007 in relation to methotrexate, gold or penicillamine therapy of a patient;
(e) a service specified in item 66201 in relation to methotrexate therapy of a patient;
(f) quantitative estimation of urea, creatinine and electrolytes in relation to:
    (i) cis-platinum therapy of a patient; or
    (ii) chronic renal failure of a patient being treated in a dialysis program conducted by a recognised hospital.

"(3) This rule does not apply in relation to a pathology service unless the account for fees in respect of the service is endorsed with the words "Rule 3 Exemption"".

3.5 After rule 5, insert:

"5A. (1) In this rule:

'designated pathology service' means a pathology service specified in item 66241, 66313 or 69241.

"(2) Subject to subrule (3), if an approved pathology practitioner in an approved pathology authority:

(a) has been requested to render a pathology service that specifies 2 or more estimations comprised in a designated pathology service; and
(b) is unable to perform 1 or more, but not all, of the estimations because of the lack of facilities in, or expertise or experience of the staff of, the laboratory of the authority in relation to that estimation or those estimations; and
(c) requests an approved pathology practitioner in another approved pathology authority to render 1 or more, but not all, of the estimations;

the service rendered by the second-mentioned practitioner is taken to be the designated pathology service.

"(3) Items 73901 to 73917 (inclusive) do not apply to the second-mentioned approved pathology practitioner in subrule (2).".

3.6 After rule 12, insert:

"SERVICES AND FEES".

3.7 After item 66213, insert:

"66215	Quantitative estimation of cryoglobulins or cryofibrinogen after a positive result for cryoglobulin is obtained in any service specified in item 66213 (including provision of that service)—1 or more estimations	14.00".

3.8 After item 66239, insert:

"66241	Estimations specified in any of items 66235 to 66239 (inclusive), if the number of estimations relating to the same patient episode does not exceed 3—each estimation to a maximum of 2 estimations	7.70".

3.9 Items 66251 and 66253:

Omit the items, substitute:

"66255	Alpha-1-acid glycoprotein, alpha-1-antitrypsin, alpha-2-macroglobulin, quantitative estimation in serum, urine or other body fluid—1 or more estimations	19.00
66257	C-1 esterase inhibitor, quantitative estimation	19.00
66258	C-1 esterase inhibitor, functional assay	42.50
66259	Alpha-fetoprotein, beta-2-microglobulin, caeruloplasmin, ferritin (except when part of item 66263), haptoglobulins, microalbumin in proven diabetes mellitus, prealbumin, prostate specific antigen, prostatic acid phosphatase, transferrin (except when part of item 66263), quantitative estimation in serum, urine or other body fluid—1 estimation	19.00
66260	2 or more estimations as specified in item 66259	35.00
66261	CA-125 antigen, CA-15.3 antigen, CA-19.9 antigen, carcinoembryonic antigen (CEA), mammary serum antigen, mucin-like carcinoma associated antigen (1 or more fractions), neuron-specific enolase, thyroglobulin in serum or other body fluid, in the monitoring or confirmation of malignancy, quantitative estimation—1 estimation	19.00".

3.10 Item 66277:

Omit the item, substitute:

"66277	Aluminium (except if item 66325 applies), arsenic, beryllium, cadmium, copper, chromium, gold, manganese, mercury, nickel, selenium, strontium, in blood, urine or other body fluid or tissue—1 or more estimations in any 6 month period	33.00".

3.11 After item 66311, insert:

"66313	Estimations specified in any of items 66301 to 66311 (inclusive), if the number of estimations relating to the same patient episode does not exceed 6—each estimation to a maximum of 5 estimations	10.60".

3.12 Item 66321:

Omit the item, substitute:

"66321	Quantitative estimation in the second trimester of a pregnancy of alpha-fetoprotein, human chorionic gonadotrophin and oestriol and any other substance to detect foetal abnormality, including any service specified in one or more of items 66259, 66301, 73527 or 73529—1 patient episode in that pregnancy	52.00
66323	Estimation of tryptic activity in faeces for the investigation of diarrhoea of greater than 4 weeks duration in children less than 6 years of age	10.50
66325	Estimation of serum aluminium in a patient in a renal dialysis program– each estimation	33.00".

3.13 Item 69227:

Omit the item.

3.14 After item 69239, insert:

"69241	Estimations specified in any of items 69229 to 69239 (inclusive), if the number of estimations relating to the same patient episode does not exceed 6—each estimation to a maximum of 5 estimations	7.00".

3.15 After item 69251, insert:

"69253	All microbiological serology during a pregnancy, which must include the determination of 1 of the following—rubella immune status, specific syphilis serology or hepatitis B surface antigen—including any service specified in one or more of items 69229, 69243 or 69245, except in the investigation of a clinically apparent intercurrent microbial illness during that pregnancy	13.30

69255	All microbiological serology during a pregnancy, which must include the determination of 2 of the following—rubella immune status, specific syphilis serology or hepatitis B surface antigen and including any service specified in one or more of items 69229, 69243 or 69245, except in the investigation of a clinically apparent intercurrent microbial illness during that pregnancy	20.30
69257	All microbiological serology during a pregnancy, which must include the determination of all 3 of the following—rubella immune status, specific syphilis serology and hepatitis B surface antigen—including any service specified in one or more of items 69229, 69243 or 69245, except in the investigation of a clinically apparent intercurrent microbial illness during that pregnancy	27.00".

3.16 Items 71001 to 71055:

Omit the items, substitute:

"71061	Examination for, and characterisation of, a paraprotein or cryoglobulin not previously characterised on serum, urine or other body fluid by immunoelectrophoresis or immunofixation—1 or more procedures	27.50
71063	Examination for, and characterisation of, a paraprotein not previously characterised, by immunoelectrophoresis or immunofixation on serum and urine collected concurrently—2 or more procedures	41.50
71065	Examination of CSF and serum concurrently for the presence of oligoclonal proteins—2 or more procedures	41.50
71067	Immunoglobulins A, G, M or D, quantitative estimation by any method in serum, urine or other body fluid—1 estimation	14.20
71069	2 estimations as specified in item 71067	24.00
71071	3 or more estimations as specified in item 71067	30.50
71073	Immunoglobulin G subclasses, quantitative estimation of all 4 subclasses with a maximum of 2 patient episodes in any 12 month period—each patient episode	100.00

71075	Immunoglobulin E (total), quantitative estimation with a maximum of 2 patient episodes in any 12 month period—each patient episode	25.50
71077	Immunoglobulin E (total), quantitative estimation in the follow up of a patient with proven immunglobulin E secreting myeloma, proven congenital immunodeficiency or proven allergic bronchopulmonary aspergillosis, with a maximum of 6 patient episodes in any 12 month period—each patient episode	25.50
71079	Estimation of specific immunoglobulin G or E antibodies to single or multiple potential allergens, with a maximum of 4 patient episodes in any 12 month period—each patient episode	23.00
71081	Total haemolytic complement, quantitative estimation	19.00
71083	Complement components C3, C4 or properdin factor B, quantitative estimation—1 estimation	19.00
71085	2 estimations as specified in item 71083	28.50
71087	3 or more estimations as specified in item 71083	35.50
71089	Complement components or breakdown products of complement proteins not elsewhere specified in an item in this Schedule, quantitative estimation—1 estimation	27.50
71091	2 estimations as specified in item 71089	50.00
71093	3 or more estimations as specified in item 71089	72.00
71097	Antinuclear antibodies, detection in serum or other body fluids, including quantitation if required	24.00
71099	Double-stranded DNA antibodies, quantitative estimation by 1 or more methods other than the Crithidia method	25.00
71101	Antibodies to 1 or more extractable nuclear antigens, detection in serum or other body fluids	16.40
71103	Antibodies to 1 or more extractable nuclear antigens, characterisation after a positive result is obtained by a service specified in item 71101, including that service	49.00
71105	Rheumatoid factor, detection of by any technique	8.20
71107	Quantitation of rheumatoid factor if detected during a service specified in item 71105, including that service	19.00

71109	Antibodies to tissue antigens (acetylcholine receptor, adrenal cortex, cardiolipin, glomerular basement membrane, heart, histone, insulin, insulin receptor, intrinsic factor, islet cell, lymphocyte, neurone, neutrophil cytoplasm, ovary, parathyroid, platelet, salivary gland, skeletal muscle, skin basement membrane and intercellular substance, thyroglobulin, thyroid microsome, thyroid stimulating hormone receptor), qualitative or quantitative—estimation of 1 antibody	32.50
71113	Estimation of 2 antibodies specified in item 71109	49.00
71115	Estimation of 3 antibodies specified in item 71109	61.00
71117	Estimation of 4 or more antibodies specified in item 71109	69.00
71119	Antibodies to tissue antigens not elsewhere specified in an item in this Schedule, qualitative or quantitative—estimation of 1 antibody	16.40
71121	Estimation of 2 antibodies specified in item 71119	19.60
71123	Estimation of 3 antibodies specified in item 71119	23.00
71125	Estimation of 4 or more antibodies specified in item 71119	26.00
71127	Functional tests for lymphocytes—estimation of proliferation induced by 1 or more mitogens, estimation of proliferation induced by 1 or more antigens or estimation of 1 or more mixed lymphocyte reactions, other than quantitation by microscopy—including a test specified in item 65005, with a maximum of 2 patient episodes in any 12 month period—each patient episode	164.00
71129	2 estimations specified in item 71127	205.00
71131	3 or more estimations specified in item 71127	245.00
71135	Determination of neutrophil function—comprising at least 2 of neutrophil chemotaxis, neutrophil phagocytosis, neutrophil oxidative metabolism, neutrophil bactericidal activity—including any test specified in item 65005 (other than Nitroblue tetrazolium reduction slide test), with a maximum of 2 patient episodes in any 12 month period—each patient episode	196.00

71137	Determination of cell mediated immunity by multiple antigen delayed type hypersensitivity intradermal skin testing using a minimum of 7 antigens, with a maximum of 2 patient episodes in any 12 month period—each patient episode	28.50
71139	Characterisation of 3 or more leucocyte surface antigens by immunofluorescence or immunoenzyme techniques to assess lymphoid or myeloid cell populations on 1 or more specimens of blood, CSF or serous fluid	98.00
71141	Characterisation of 3 or more leucocyte surface antigens by immunofluorescence or immunoenzyme techniques to assess lymphoid or myeloid cell populations on 1 or more disaggregated tissue specimens	215.00
71143	Characterisation (not monitoring) of 6 or more leucocyte surface antigens by immunofluorescence or immunoenzyme techniques to assess lymphoid or myeloid cell populations in an immunological or haematological malignancy, including any service specified in one or more of items 71139 or 71141, on a specimen of blood, CSF, serous fluid or disaggregated tissue	245.00
71145	Characterisation (not monitoring) of 6 or more leucocyte surface antigens by immunofluorescence or immunoenzyme techniques to assess lymphoid or myeloid cell populations in an immunological or haematological malignancy, including any service specified in one or more of items 71139, 71141 or 71143, on 2 or more specimens of disaggregated tissues or 1 specimen of disaggregated tissue and 1 or more specimens of blood, CSF or serous fluid	400.00
71147	HLA-B27 typing	32.50

71149	Complete tissue typing for 4 HLA-A and HLA-B Class I antigens (including any separation of leucocytes), including any service specified in item 71147	102.00
71151	Tissue typing for HLA-DR, HLA-DP and HLA-DQ Class II antigens (including any separation of leucocytes)—phenotyping or genotyping of 2 or more antigens	112.00".

NOTES

1. Notified in the *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* on 26 August 1992.

2. Statutory Rules 1992 No. 23 as amended by 1992 No. 46.