**MBS information sheet**

**Radiation therapy - Medicare benefits for planning and treating multiple tumour sites**

This information sheet describes the MBS billing rules for planning and treating patients with multiple tumour sites and aims to provide a common understanding and language to streamline the claiming and processing of MBS billings for those services.

**Planning multiple sites** (megavoltage items 15902-15910, 15914, 15920, 15924, 15926[[TN.2.2](https://www9.health.gov.au/mbs/fullDisplay.cfm?type=note&q=TN.2.2&qt=noteID)]andkilovoltage item 15950[[TN.2.4](https://www9.health.gov.au/mbs/fullDisplay.cfm?type=note&qt=NoteID&q=TN.2.4)])

* For each of the items listed, one plan only will attract Medicare benefits in a course of treatment.
* Benefits are payable however for further planning items where planning is undertaken for another tumour site to that (or those) specified in the original prescription by the radiation oncologist [site definition at [TN.2.3](https://www9.health.gov.au/mbs/fullDisplay.cfm?type=note&q=TN.2.3&qt=noteID)].
* To attract Medicare benefits, each site must be uniquely identified in billing notes (see below).
* For intracranial stereotactic planning (item 15918), ‘intracranial’ is considered to be a single site. [The cranium is defined as everything inside the bones of the skull.]
* Structures outside the cranium – including the bones of the skull, the scalp, and skin overlying the scalp - may have multiple sites requiring separate plans.

**Treating multiple sites at one attendance** (megavoltage items15930-15940, 15946, 15948, [[TN.2.3](https://www9.health.gov.au/mbs/fullDisplay.cfm?type=note&q=TN.2.3&qt=noteID)] and kilovoltage item 15954)

* Where patients are being treated with radiation therapy to multiple sites of disease at one attendance, each treatment site must be documented in a separately prescribed plan.
* To attract Medicare benefits, each site must be uniquely identified in billing notes (see below).

*Stereotactic treatment items (15942 & 15944)*

* Intracranial stereotactic radiation therapy (15942) is applicable once per day.
* Stereotactic body radiation therapy (item 15944) is applicable once per day. Treatments are often delivered on non-consecutive days. When multiple plans are to be delivered in the same time frame, treatments to each site can be billed if delivered on different days.

**Unique identification in billing notes**

* For both planning and treatment items, sites must be clearly identified and differentiated in billing notes with a unique identifier of less than 30 characters (including spaces). Examples:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Liver right upper lobe | Brain left cerebellum | Lumbar vertebrae central |
| Lung left middle lobe | Brain right frontal lobe | Femur neck left proximal |
| Sacrum right anterior | Scapula left medial | Femur right distal |

* Please do not number each site (first site / site 1 / site one) or include terms such as ‘multiple sites’.
* The full name of a body part must be specified. Abbreviations will not be accepted.
* To differentiate site location in the same body part, terms may include: anterior, posterior, medial, lateral, proximal, distal, upper, middle, lower etc.