



Budget October 2022-23

This information is accurate as of 25 October 2022.

COVID-19 Package – Medicare and medicines

This measure provides continued funding for Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) pathology laboratory testing on the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) for:

- COVID-19
- other respiratory viruses.

A new MBS item structure has been created for these tests to better reflect modern clinical practice and multiplex testing.

This measure is expected to benefit more than 1.9 million Australians.

The MBS is led by the Department of Health and Aged Care and administered by Services Australia. This measure has been allocated \$1.4 million in 2022-23.

This measure is not subject to the passage of legislation.

Who does this measure affect?

This affects patients eligible for these MBS items and health professionals providing these services.

When will this start and finish?

This started on 1 October 2022 and will end on 31 December 2022.