

## MBS Taskforce Review: Changes to **Urology** Items

1 November 2020

Changes to the Urology services on the MBS have been implemented from **1 November 2020** as part of the major reforms being undertaken by the MBS Taskforce Review.

The Department of Health have released a series of [Factsheets](#) online, including a **Quick Reference Guide** ([pdf](#), [word doc](#)) outlining these changes in full. ASPS have compiled changes for our members who perform genital reconstruction surgery below.

Please ensure you familiarise yourselves with these changes to ensure appropriate billing practices.

The **Quick Reference Guide** has grouped the changes into 5 categories:

1. General, endoscopic, and other urological changes
2. Urological Oncology changes (including PBH)
3. Endo-urology and renal stone disease changes
4. Paediatric genitourinary and reconstructive urology changes
5. Incontinence and urogynaecology changes

Please refer to the relevant section for the full suite of item changes in that category.

### **Amended item 37008 – Suprapubic cystostomy or cystotomy**

**Overview:** Amended to introduce an assistance component, specify an "open" suprapubic cystostomy and introduce a restriction on co-claiming with item 37245.

**Item Descriptor:** Open cystostomy or cystotomy, suprapubic, other than:  
(a) a service to which item 37011 applies; or  
(b) a service associated with a service to which item 37245 applies; or  
(c) another open bladder procedure (Anaes.) (Assist.)

**MBS Fee:** \$429.45 (no change)

## Amended item 37011 – Suprapubic stab cystotomy\*

**Overview:** Amended to remove restriction on co-claiming with items 37200 to 37221, and instead restrict co-claiming with item 36827 only. New explanatory note TN.8.159 applies to this item.

**Item Descriptor:** Suprapubic stab cystotomy, other than a service associated with a service to which item 36827 applies (Anaes.)

**MBS Fee:** \$96.25 (no change)

### New explanatory note TN.8.159 – General Urology: Bladder repair and Cystotomy - (Item 37011)

**Overview:** Introducing a new explanatory note to clarify when it is appropriate to claim this item. The procedure for item 37011 may include cystoscopy, but it should not include both cystoscopy and hydrodistension, which is only intended for treatment of interstitial cystitis and other inflammatory bladder disorders.

**Explanatory note descriptor:** Co-claiming of this item is reasonable in urgent situations that cannot be resolved with a urethral catheter alone.

## Amended item 37324 – Internal/external urethrotomy or urethrostomy

**Overview:** Amended to introduce the assistance component, as an external urethrostomy, although not common, can be a challenging open procedure, especially in obese patients with extensive stricture disease.

**Item Descriptor:** Urethrotomy or urethrostomy, internal or external (Anaes.) (Assist.)

**MBS Fee:** \$237.05 (no change)

## Amended item 37417 – Correction of chordee

**Overview:** Amended to better reflect contemporary care and best practice.

**Item Descriptor:** Penis, correction of chordee, by plication techniques including Nesbit's corporoplasty (Anaes.) (Assist.)

**MBS Fee:** \$575.55 (no change)

## Amended item 37418 – Correction of chordee with mobilisation of urethra

**Overview:** Amended to better reflect contemporary care and best practice.

**Item Descriptor:** Penis, correction of chordee with incision or excision of fibrous plaque or plaques, with or without mobilisation of one or both of the neuro-vascular bundle and urethra (Anaes.) (Assist.)

**MBS Fee:** \$764.65 (no change)

## Amended item 37423 – Penis lengthening by translocation of corpora\*

**Overview:** Amended to specify that this item is only for procedures performed in conjunction with a partial penectomy, and now includes penile epispadias secondary repair. New explanatory note TN.8.164 applies to this item.

**Item Descriptor:** Penis, lengthening by translocation of corpora, in conjunction with partial penectomy or penile epispadias secondary repair, either as primary or secondary procedures (Anaes.) (Assist.)

**MBS Fee:** \$953.60 (no change)

### New explanatory note TN.8.164 – General Urology: Lengthening of penis - (Item 37423)

**Overview:** Introducing a new explanatory note to specify that the partial penectomy does not have to be performed at the same time as the penis lengthening.

**Explanatory note descriptor:** The partial penectomy or penile epispadias secondary repair does not need to occur during the same episode that item 37423 is claimed.

## Amended item 37833 – Repair of urethral fistula and hypospadias on a patient 10 years of age or over

**Overview:** Amended item descriptor to remove reference to 'post-operative' as urethrocutaneous fistula can have a delayed presentation.

**Item Descriptor:** Hypospadias, repair of urethral fistula on a person 10 years of age or over (Anaes.) (Assist.)

**MBS fee:** \$340.30 (no change)

### **Amended item 37834 – Repair of urethral fistula and hypospadias on a patient under 10 years of age**

**Overview:** Amended item descriptor to remove reference to ‘post-operative’ as urethrocutaneous fistula can have a delayed presentation.

**Item Descriptor:** Hypospadias, repair of urethral fistula, on a person under 10 years of age (Anaes.) (Assist.)

**MBS fee:** \$442.35 (no change)

### **Amended item 37842 – Exstrophy of bladder or epispadias**

**Overview:** Amended item descriptor to allow primary or secondary repair with or without bladder neck tightening.

**Item Descriptor:** Exstrophy of bladder or epispadias, primary or secondary repair with or without bladder neck tightening, with or without ureteric reimplantation (Anaes.) (Assist.)

**MBS fee:** \$1,576.85 (no change)

### **Amended item 37845 – External genitoplasty for congenital disorder of sexual differentiation with or without endoscopy**

**Overview:** Amended item descriptor to reflect current terminology and acknowledge it is a highly complex procedure, requiring appropriate training and significant skill to achieve satisfactory functional aesthetic results for long-term patient wellbeing.

**Item Descriptor:** Congenital disorder of sexual differentiation with urogenital sinus, external genitoplasty, with or without endoscopy (Anaes.) (Assist.)

**MBS fee:** \$716.70 (no change)

### **Amended item 37848 – External genitoplasty for congenital disorder of sexual differentiation with endoscopy and vaginoplasty**

**Overview:** Amended item descriptor to reflect current terminology and acknowledge it is a highly complex procedure, requiring appropriate training and significant skill to achieve satisfactory functional aesthetic results for long-term patient wellbeing.

**Item Descriptor:** Congenital disorder of sexual differentiation with urogenital sinus, external genitoplasty, with endoscopy and vaginoplasty (Anaes.) (Assist.)

**MBS fee:** \$1,290.10 (no change)

## **Amended item 37851 – Vaginoplasty for congenital disorder of sexual differentiation**

**Overview:** Amended item descriptor to reflect current terminology and acknowledge it is a highly complex procedure, requiring appropriate training and significant skill to achieve satisfactory functional aesthetic results for long-term patient wellbeing.

**Item Descriptor:** Congenital disorder of sexual differentiation, vaginoplasty for, with or without endoscopy (Anaes.) (Assist.)

**MBS fee:** \$955.75 (no change)