



RANZCO

The Royal Australian
and New Zealand
College of Ophthalmologists

RANZCO Aftercare Guidelines

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Preamble

The Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) is designed to include a patient rebate for both the procedure and the patient's aftercare. The schedule is *not prescriptive* as to the duration of the period. What constitutes a *reasonable* aftercare period has caused considerable debate, amongst the profession as well as Medicare itself.

These RANZCO guidelines are intended to provide guidance. The periods suggested have been provided by the College's relevant Special Interest Groups and endorsed by the Board. This document does not represent a mandated policy but rather is intended as an aid for Fellows in their clinical practice. The list of included MBS item numbers is intentionally *not* exhaustive but is intended to provide a *framework* to enable Fellows to develop reasonable aftercare billing practices.

Following on from Department of Health Compliance activity in late 2018 relating to claiming MBS item 105 within 10 days of a T8 item, this document is intended to provide ophthalmologists guidance for appropriate aftercare periods for T8 ophthalmology procedural MBS items.

At this time the Department has advised Medicare does *not* decide when a practitioner should or should not bill a professional attendance for aftercare services. The medical practitioner is responsible to perform their services in accordance with the [Medicare Benefits Schedule](#), legislation and accepted medical practice. Where unsure, the provider can seek guidance from their professional association.

This document provides Fellows with reasonable peer benchmarks but does not provide definitive legal arbitration. Ultimately, the treating ophthalmologist must be prepared to justify their billing practices and aftercare durations, to both their patients and Medicare.

“Aftercare is deemed to include all post-operative treatment rendered by medical specialists and consultant physicians, and includes all attendances until recovery from the operation, the final check or examination, regardless of whether the attendances are at the hospital, private rooms, or the patient's home.”

RANZCO aftercare guidelines thus recommend suitable aftercare periods for T8 ophthalmology procedural MBS items and should be used as guidance in conjunction with clinical knowledge. If a service is provided during the aftercare phase for a condition not related to the operation, then this can be claimed, provided the account identifies the service as 'Not normal aftercare', with a brief explanation of the reason for the additional services. Practitioner discretion should be used in conjunction with the guidelines to ensure best patient outcomes.

Item number	Item descriptor	Aftercare period (days)
34109	Temporal artery, biopsy of	21
42504	Glaucoma, implantation of a micro-bypass surgery stent system into the trabecular meshwork, if: (a) conservative therapies have failed, are likely to fail, or are contraindicated; and (b) the service is performed by a specialist with training that is recognised by the Conjoint Committee for the Recognition of Training in Micro-Bypass Glaucoma Surgery	5
42505	Complete removal from the eye of a trans-trabecular drainage device or devices, with or without replacement, following device related medical complications necessitating complete removal	5
42509	Eye, enucleation of, with insertion of integrated implant	14
42510	Eye, enucleation of, with insertion of hydroxy apatite implant or similar coralline implant	14
42512	Globe, evisceration of	10
42515	Globe, evisceration of, and insertion of intrascleral ball or cartilage	14
42518	Anophthalmic orbit, insertion of cartilage or artificial implant as a delayed procedure, or removal or implant from socket, or placement of a motility integrating peg by drilling into an existing orbital implant	10
42527	Contracted socket, reconstruction including mucous membrane grafting and stent mould	14
42530	Orbit, exploration with or without biopsy, requiring removal or bone	21
42533	Orbit, exploration of, with drainage or biopsy not requiring removal of bone	14
42536	Orbit, exenteration of, with or without skin graft and with or without temporalis muscle transplant	21
42539	Orbit, exploration of, with removal of tumour or foreign body, requiring removal of bone	21
42542	Orbit, exploration of anterior aspect with removal of tumour or foreign body	14

42548	Optic nerve meninges, incision of	21
42551	Eye, penetrating wound or rupture of, not involving intraocular structures repair involving suture of cornea or sclera, or both, not being a service to which item 42632 applies	28
42554	Eye, penetrating wound or rupture of, with incarceration or prolapse of uveal tissue repair	28
42557	Eye, penetrating wound or rupture of, with incarceration of lens or vitreous repair	28
42563	Intraocular foreign body, removal from anterior segment	28
42569	Intraocular foreign body, removal from posterior segment	28
42575	Tarsal cyst, extirpation of	5
42581	Ectropion or entropion, tarsal cauterisation of	5
42584	Tarsorrhaphy	7
42590	Canthoplasty, medial or lateral	10
42596	Lacrimal sac, excision of, or operation on	10
42602	Lacrimal canalicular system, establishment of patency by open operation, one eye	14
42605	Lacrimal canaliculus, immediate repair of	10
42617	Punctum snip operation	5
42623	Dacryocystorhinostomy	21
42629	Conjunctivorhinostomy including dacryocystorhinostomy and fashioning of conjunctival flaps	21
42653	Cornea, transplantation of	21
42656	Cornea, transplantation of, second and subsequent procedures	21
42672	Corneal incisions, to correct corneal astigmatism of more than 1 ½ dioptres following anterior segment surgery, including appropriate measurements and calculations, performed as an independent procedure	21
42673	Additional corneal incisions, to correct corneal astigmatism of more than 1 ½ dioptres, including appropriate measurements and calculations, performed in conjunction with other anterior segment surgery	21

42686	Pterygium, removal of	21
42698	Lens extraction, excluding surgery performed for the correction of refractive error except for anisometropia greater than 3 dioptres following the removal of cataract in the first eye	21
42701	IOL, insertion of, excluding surgery performed for the correction of refractive error except for anisometropia greater than 3 dioptres following the removal of cataract in the first eye	21
42702	Lens extraction and insertion of IOL, excluding surgery performed for the correction of refractive error except for anisometropia greater than 3 dioptres following the removal of cataract in the first eye	21
42705	Lens extraction and insertion of IOL, excluding surgery performed for the correction of refractive error except for anisometropia greater than 3 dioptres following the removal of cataract in the first eye, performed in association with insertion of a trans-trabecular drainage device or devices, in a patient diagnosed with open angle glaucoma who is not adequately responsive to topical anti-glaucoma medications or who is intolerant of anti-glaucoma medication	21
42707	IOL, removal of and replacement with a different lens, excluding surgery performed for the correction of refractive error except for anisometropia greater than 3 dioptres following the removal of cataract in the first eye	21
42710	IOL, removal of, and replacement with a lens inserted into the posterior chamber and fixated to the iris or sclera	21
42716	Cataract, juvenile, removal of, including subsequent needlings	21
42725	Vitreotomy via pars plana sclerotomy, including one or more of the following: a. Removal of vitreous; b. Division of vitreous bands; c. Removal or epiretinal membranes; d. Capsulotomy	28
42731	Limbal or pars plana lensectomy combined with vitrectomy, not being a service associated with items 42698, 42702, 42719, or 42725	28
42738	Paracentesis of anterior chamber or vitreous cavity, or both, for the injection of therapeutic substances, or the removal of aqueous or vitreous humours for diagnostic or therapeutic purposes, one or more of, as an independent procedure	5

42739	Paracentesis of anterior chamber or vitreous cavity, or both, for injection of therapeutic substances, or the removal of aqueous or vitreous humours for diagnostic or therapeutic purposes, one or more of, as an independent procedure, for a patient requiring anaesthetic by an anaesthetist.	5
42740	Intravitreal injection of therapeutic substances, or the removal of vitreous humour for diagnostic purposes, one or more of, as a procedure associated with the other intraocular surgery	5
42744	Needle revision of glaucoma filtration bleb, following glaucoma filtering procedure	5
42746	Glaucoma, filtering operation for, where conservative therapies have failed, are likely to fail, or are contraindicated	14
42752	Glaucoma, insertion of drainage device incorporating an extraocular reservoir for, such as a Molteno device	14
42755	Glaucoma, removal of drainage device incorporating extraocular reservoir for, such as Molteno device	5
42758	Goniotomy for the treatment of primary congenital glaucoma, excluding the minimally invasive implantation of glaucoma drainage devices	10
42761	Division of anterior or posterior synechiae, as an independent procedure, other than by laser	10
42764	Iridectomy (including excision of tumour of iris) or iridotomy, as an independent procedure, other than by laser	10
42770	Cyclodestructive procedures for the treatment of intractable glaucoma, treatment to one eye, to a maximum of two treatments to that eye in a 2 year period	7
42773	Detached retina, pneumatic retinopexy for, not being a service associated with a service to which item 42776 applies	28
42776	Detached retina, buckling or resection operation for	28
42779	Detached retina, revision of scleral buckling operation for	28
42782	Laser trabeculoplasty, for the treatment of glaucoma. Each treatment to one eye, to a maximum of four treatments to that eye in a 2 year period	7
42785	Laser iridotomy – each treatment episode to one eye, to a maximum of three treatments to that eye in a 2 year period	7

42788	Laser capsulotomy – each treatment episode to one eye, to a maximum of two treatments to that eye in a 2 year period – other than a service to which item 42702 applies.	7
42794	Division of suture by laser following glaucoma filtration surgery, each treatment to one eye, to a maximum of two treatments to that eye in a 2 year period	7
42807	Photomydriasis, laser	7
42808	Laser peripheral iridoplasty	7
42809	Retina, photocoagulation of, not being a service associated with photodynamic therapy with verteporfin	7
42812	Removal of scleral buckling material, from an eye having undergone previous scleral buckling surgery	5
42815	Vitreous cavity, removal of silicone oil or other liquid vitreous substitutes from, during a procedure other than that in which the vitreous substitute is inserted	28
42818	Retina, cryotherapy to, as an independent procedure, or when performed in conjunction with 42809 or 42770	7
42833	Squint, operation for, on one or both eyes, the operation involving a total of one or two muscles on a patient aged 15 years or over	21
42836	Squint, operation for, on one or both eyes, the operation involving a total of one or two muscles, on a patient aged 14 years or under, or where the patient has had previous squint, retinal or extra ocular operations on the eye or eyes, or on a patient with concurrent thyroid eye disease	21
42851	Squint, muscle transplant for (Hummelsheim type, or similar operation) on a patient aged 14 years or under, or where the patient has had previous squint, retinal or extra ocular operations on the eye or eyes, or on a patient with concurrent thyroid eye disease	21
42854	Ruptured medial palpebral ligament or ruptured extraocular muscle, repair of	21
43021	Photodynamic therapy, one eye, including the infusion of Verteporfin continuously through a peripheral vein, using a non-thermal laser at a wavelength of 689nm, for the treatment of choroidal neovascularisation	7