



COMRAD

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Medicare Online Claiming Suite

COMRAD MBS Update

Notes

01 December 2020

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## Introduction

Services Australia (Department of Human Services) has published a new Medicare Benefits Schedule, effective 01 December 2020 that includes several changes for Nuclear Medicine Imaging Service providers. These changes will allow you to provide patients access to appropriate nuclear medicine items during the current shortage of nuclear medicine isotopes.

The changes include:

- Reinstatement of seven exam codes (previously deprecated)
- Modified descriptors for two of the reinstated exam codes
- Additional five new codes

***Please carefully read the Medicare online resources, COMRAD changes required, and “how-to” instructions in this document. It will guide you through the actions you need to take as soon as practicable.***

If you need further assistance, please contact our Support team on 1800 659 643, [helpdesk@comrad.com.au](mailto:helpdesk@comrad.com.au), or log into the Comrad online service portal <https://jira.comrad.com.au/servicedesk/>.

## Summary of Actions:

This is a summary of actions that are detailed in the following sections. These actions should be performed where required. Comrad is not able to back-date prices where these actions are not performed in the time prescribed; and are not able to implement other changes for you.

1. Review the MBS changes
2. Import the MBS 01 December 2020 into COMRAD
3. Complete exam details & activate any fully-new or reinstated MBS codes you wish to use
4. Update MBS-derived Price Lists
5. Update/New Quick Codes to use new codes
6. Advise staff of the new codes to be used

# 1. Review the MBS Changes

- Review Medicare's MBS Changes Summary Page:

<http://www.mbsonline.gov.au/internet/mbsonline/publishing.nsf/Content/news-201201>

- Compile the following lists, which you will need for the actions in later sections:

- i. Any fully-new MBS codes you wish to activate ([Appendix I](#))
- ii. Exam codes that are being reinstated ([Appendix II](#))

*Optionally:*

- iii. Exam codes with description changes ([Appendix III](#))

## 2. Download & Import the 01 December 2020 MBS into COMRAD

Step-by-step instructions are available in [Appendix V](#). Please use if unsure as it is important that you get this step right.

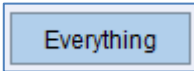
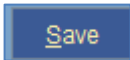
Please:

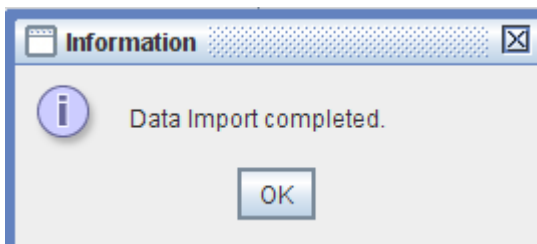
- Download the file MBS-XML-201201a to your desktop from

<http://www.mbsonline.gov.au/internet/mbsonline/publishing.nsf/Content/Downloads-201201a>

- In COMRAD, open Exam > Maintenance > Import Price Schedule and set the filter fields: let "Effective From" default to the current date and adjust the time to be 5 minutes into the future, and set "Charging Scheme" to the price list you use for your Medicare Bulk Billing:

- Click Load File, and choose mbs-xml-201201a.xml from your desktop

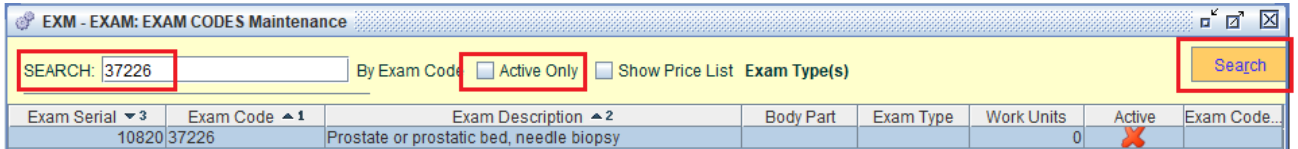
- Click on any row in the table, click the  button, then click the  button. Leave the screen open until your data import is completed:



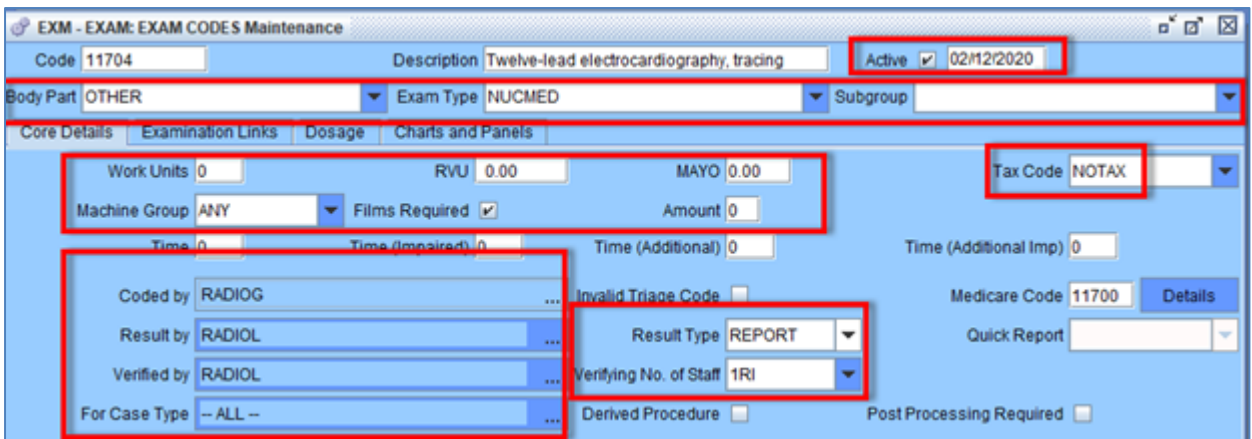
- Close the importer and check your new prices in Exam > Maintenance > Single Pricing Scheme

### 3. Complete Exam Details & Activate Fully-New or Reinstated MBS Codes

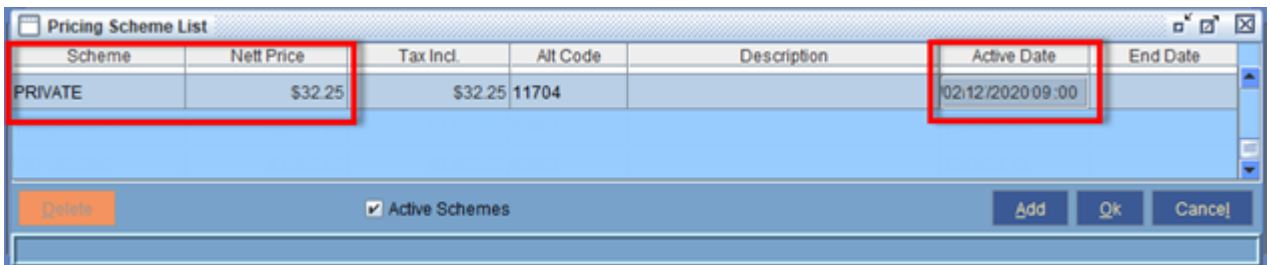
- Review the list you compiled in Section 1 above.
- If you have one or more fully- new or reinstated codes to enable, open Exam > Maintenance > Exam Codes, **untick the “Active” checkbox**, and search for the code:



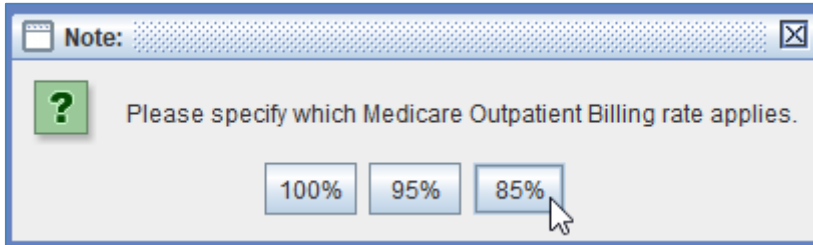
- Click the “Details” button to edit it: Tick the “Active” checkbox, **change the Active date to the current date** (or date you imported the new prices, if different).
- Enter all other examination code data required for use in your system, **including the Subgroup** where you have charge rules that calculate price alterations this way:



- If you intend to use this code with case types / charge rules / organisations linked to other pricing schemes, click the **Scheme List** button, click the Add button, select the pricing scheme, enter the price, **set the Active Date to the same date and time as your imported price**. Continue clicking “Add” for each price list, and click OK when you’re finished entering the prices.



- Click the "Save" button in the exam code then click the applicable Bulk Billing Outpatient Rate button in the popup panel:
  1. 100% for MRI items
  2. 95% for all other Diagnostic Imaging Items
  3. 85% for all items not included in groups 1 & 2 above



- Click the "Save" button in the exam screen, then repeat these steps for each code being activated.



## 4. Update Other Price Lists

If you have any pricing schemes that are indexed from the MBS price list, you will need to update them bring in the new item codes and the updated prices.

Do this as you normally would for an MBS update. If you need instructions, please contact Comrad Support.

If you need to update your **Rebate Price Scheme**, download the file and supporting documentation from the Comrad Website [here](#)

## 5. Add New / Update Quick Codes

Where you are using MBS codes in Quick Codes, you may need to update these where you wish to add one of Medicare's fully-new or reinstated codes into a quick code.

## 6. Add New / Update Other Codes / Code Mappings

Where exam codes are used for Report Accelerator Mappings, or PS360 Autotext mappings, correct these to use the updated exam codes as applicable. Please contact Comrad if you require assistance with this.

## 7. Update Your Staff on new Codes & Workflows

Given the number of changes likely for your staff, it is recommended that you give prior notice and distribute cheatsheets for staff detailing previous coding requirements and new coding requirements.

## Appendix I. Fully-new MBS Codes From 01 December 2020

*This table is provided FYI only. Medicare's publications should be the basis of any decisions you make.*

The following codes have been introduced by Medicare and have no prior-code equivalents:

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New Items from 1 December 2020	61365 61377 61380 61418 61422
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## Appendix II. MBS Reinstated MBS Codes From 01 December 2020

*These tables are provided FYI only. Medicare's publications should be the basis of any decisions you make.*

The following exam codes have been reinstated from 01 December 2020:

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Reinstated items from 1 December 2020	61311 61332 61333 61336 61337 61341 61344
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## Appendix III. MBS Codes with Description Changes

*These tables are provided FYI only. Medicare's publications should be the basis of any decisions you make.*

The following reinstated item codes include description changes from 01 December 2020:

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Amend Items (2)	61311 61332
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# Appendix V. Import the 01 December MBS into COMRAD

- In your web browser, navigate to the MBS Downloads page :

<http://www.mbsonline.gov.au/internet/mbsonline/publishing.nsf/Content/Downloads-201201a>

- Scroll down to the Data File section, hold your mouse over the MBS XML link as shown, *right-click*, and select “Save link as” (or your browser equivalent):


## December 2020 Downloads

Files for December 2020 changes to the MBS

 Page last updated: 01 December 2020

Further information on changes is available from the [December 2020 news page](#).

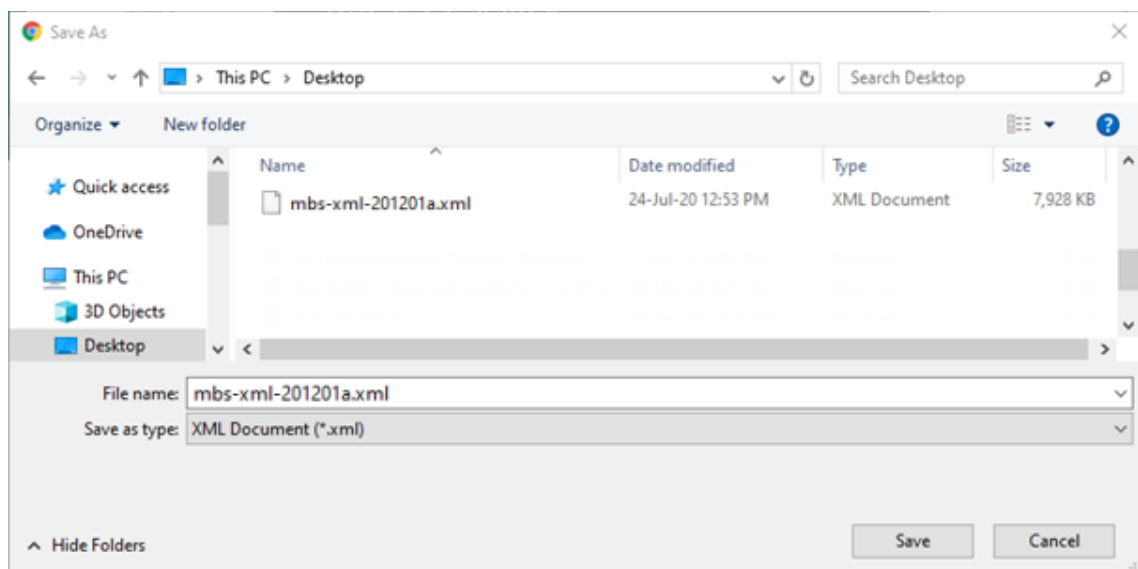
### Data Files

Download Options	Notes
<a href="#">MBS-XML-201201a</a> 	File released on 1 December 2020

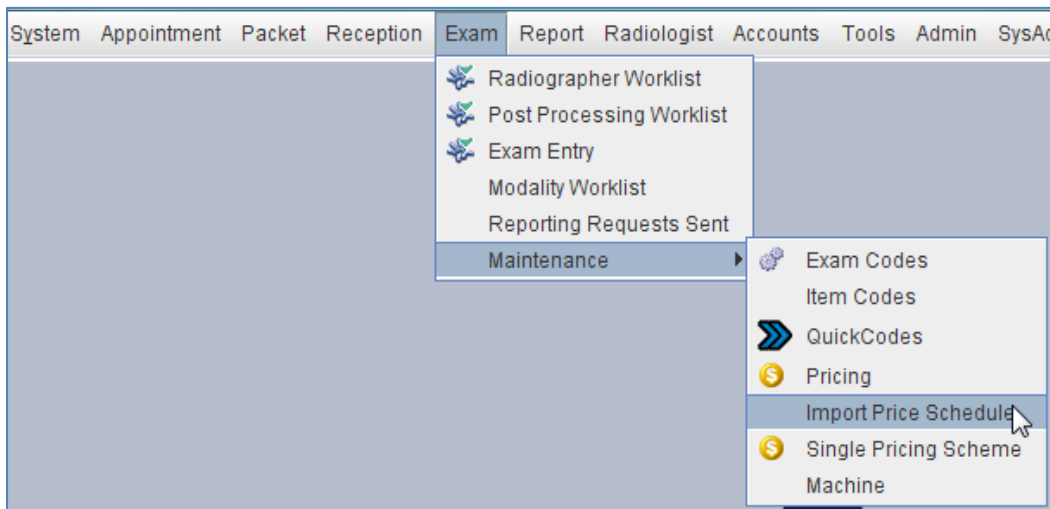
### Data Files

Download Options	Notes
<div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 5px;"> <a href="#">MBS-XML-201201a</a>                      Open                      Open in new tab                      Open in new window                      Open with Microsoft Edge  <b>Save target as...</b>                      Print target                 </div>	File released on 1 December 2020  Substitute Nuclear medicine imaging items (61311, 61332, 61333, 61336, 61337, 61341 and 61344) have recommenced and five new substitute items (61365, 61377, 61380, 61418 and 61422) have commenced to allow patients access to certain nuclear medicine services during a disruption in the supply.

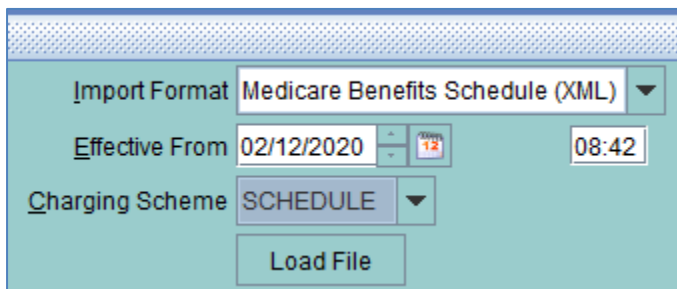
- In the “Save As” directory list, choose “Desktop” in the tree on the left-hand side, and click the “Save” button:



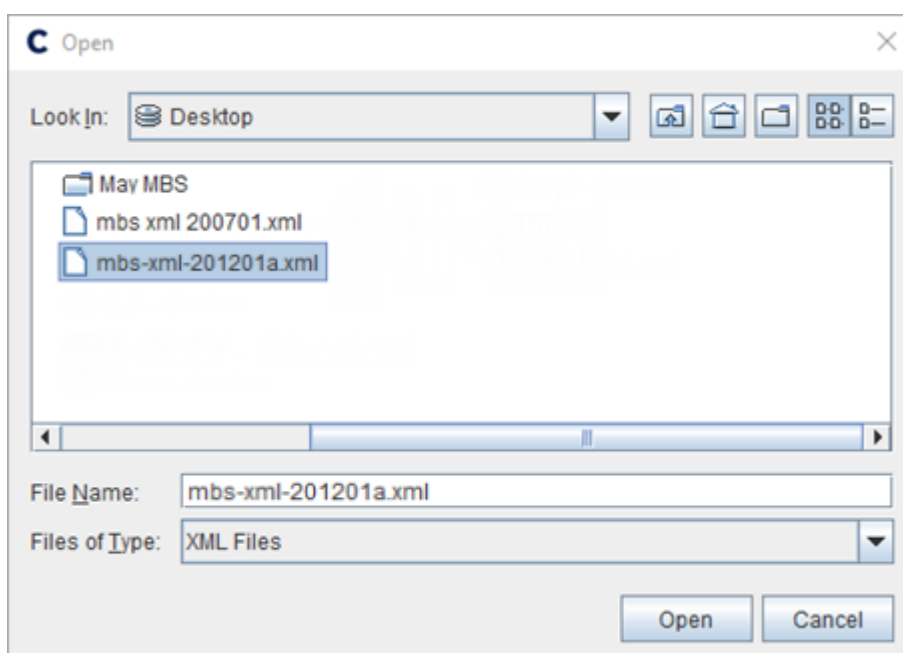
- In COMRAD, navigate to your “Import Price Schedule” screen:



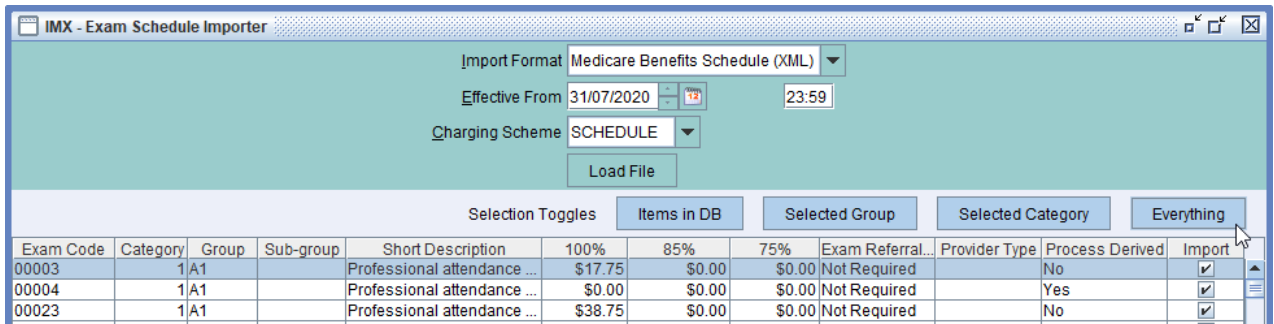
- Set “Import Format” to “**Medicare Benefits Schedule (XML)**”, let “Effective From” default to the current date and adjust the time to be 5 minutes into the future, set “Charging Scheme” to the price list you use for your Medicare Bulk Billing, and click “Load File”:



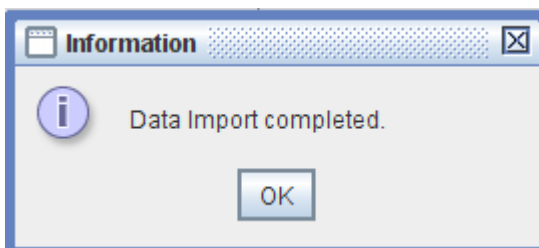
- In the file-picker box, change the “Look In” folder to “Desktop”, click on mbs-xml-201201a.xml and click “Open”:



- Click on any row in the table, click the **Everything** button:



- Click the **Save** button. Leave the screen open until your data import is completed. This may take several minutes:



- Close the importer and check your new prices in Exam > Maintenance > Single Pricing Scheme

## Version Control

Version	Date	Author	Section(s)	Change(s)
1.0	02/12/2020	Sandy Saraw	All	Created.



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December 2020

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