



Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing

PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE CIRCULAR

Acute Care Division
Private Health Insurance Branch
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PROSTHESES LIST – FREIGHT AND LOAN KIT FEES

The purpose of this Circular is to inform the private health industry that the Protheses List database now has a marker indicating which products have freight and loan kit fees included in the listed benefit amount/s.

Background

PHI Circular 58/05 advised that the cost of standard freight and loan kits were included in the benefit amounts for the following products:

- products that have been evaluated by Clinical Advisory Groups (ie cardiac stents, cardiac pacemakers and leads, cardiac defibrillators and leads, hip replacements, knee replacements and intraocular lenses);
- new products listed in February 2005; and
- new products listed in August 2005.

The benefit amounts for all these products are negotiated benefit amounts and the cost of freight and loan kit fees have been included in the negotiated benefits amounts.

Grandfathered benefit amounts

For products where the benefit amount has been determined under the grandfathering arrangements, cost of freight and/or loan kit fees may or may not be included in the benefit amount/s. It is expected that benefit amounts for these products will be negotiated in the lead up to the August 2006 Protheses List.

Action taken

To assist hospitals and health funds to identify the products where benefits have been negotiated, and freight and loan kit fees are known to be included in the benefit amount/s, the Protheses database has been amended to include a marker to indicate this.

A new field has been added to the database labelled "Freight/Loan Kit Fees Incl". If this field is checked, the cost of freight and loan kits has been included in the benefit amount/s for the product.

If this field is not checked, hospitals and health funds will need to check with the supplier whether the cost of freight or loan kits is included.

The field will be visible in "Tables" and "Forms" view of the database.

Over time, as new products are added to the Prostheses List and benefit amounts for grandfathered products are negotiated, every product on the List will have freight and loan kit fees included in the benefit amount/s. Once that occurs, the field will be removed from the database.

Please note that no other changes have been made to the database or product information since the amendments to the Prostheses List were released on 18 November 2005.

If you require further information please telephone: (02) 6289 9853/24 hr answering machine or email the enquiry to PrivateHealth@health.gov.au

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