



## RULE 3 EXEMPTION GUIDELINES FOR OUTPATIENTS

The following table has been created to assist requesting doctors with the application of Rule 4. (2) from the Medicare Benefits Schedule 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014 for **outpatient** services. Rule 4 enables the laboratory to perform the requested test(s) on up to six occasions in response to a single request.

Please note that under a request for a service from the list below:

- (i) The items are performed within a 6 month period from the date of request  
**and**
- (ii) No more than a total of 6 items are requested (except an INR 4.(2) (a) which is unlimited) within the 6 months period

Rule	Test name	Items	Condition
4.(2) (a)	INR	65120	Anticoagulant Therapy
4.(2) (b)	Lithium	66800	Lithium therapy
4.(2) (c)	eg FBC, ESR, Retic	65070	Chemotherapy for neoplastic disease or immunosuppressant therapy
4.(2) (d)	eg FBC, ESR, Retic	65070	Clozaril, ticlopidine hydrochloride, methotrexate, gold, sulphasalazine or penicillamine therapy
4.(2) (e)	See below for a full list of tests	66500 – 66512	Methotrexate or leflunomide therapy
4.(2) (f)	Urea, Creatinine, Electrolytes	66500 – 66512	Cis-platinum or cyclosporine therapy; or chronic renal failure of a patient being treated in a dialysis program conducted by a recognised hospital
4.(2) (g)	Albumin and calcium	66503	Therapy of a patient with vitamin D, its metabolites or analogues

### SEALS

North | Randwick / Sydney  
 Central | Kogarah / Sutherland  
 South | Wollongong / Nowra / Shellharbour

4.(2) (h)	Calcium, phosphate, magnesium, urea, creatinine, electrolytes	66512	Cancer patients receiving bisphosphonate infusion
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**Tests covered under item 66500 – 66512**

(up to 5 tests in any combination of the following tests)

acid phosphatase, alanine aminotransferase, albumin, alkaline phosphatase, ammonia, amylase, aspartate aminotransferase, bicarbonate, bilirubin (total), bilirubin (any fractions), C-reactive protein, calcium (total or corrected for albumin), chloride, creatine kinase, creatinine, gamma glutamyl transferase, globulin, glucose, lactate dehydrogenase, lipase, magnesium, phosphate, potassium, sodium, total protein, total cholesterol, triglycerides, urate or urea

**Assisting SEALS**

When ordering pathology where Rule 3 exemption is applicable, either *manually* or via *eMR*, the following information *must* be included on the order by the practitioner.

- a. *Clinical note* of the patient (as per condition column above)
- b. The *frequency* of the tests (eg INR x5)
- c. The *date* of request
- d. Manually *endorse* the pathology tests Rule 3 Exemption (or R3X) in the *test section*

Tests will not be performed on expired request forms. If the request form has expired, the patient will be asked to contact their doctor for another pathology form.

**SEALS**

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