

Medicare Rule 3 Exemptions

The Australian Medicare regulations, under certain circumstances, allow for a single signed request form to cover repeat testing. The information in this guide has been derived from the latest edition of the Medicare Benefits Schedule.

Please follow the steps below for your Rule 3 referrals, in the clinical notes:

- Notate the relevant therapy
- Clearly write 'Rule 3 exemption'.

The request is then valid for six (6) months or six (6) episodes, whichever occurs first.

NOTE: The exception to the above is INR: any number of repeat testing can be performed (not limited to six) within the 6 months of the request date.

Conditions and Treatments	Tests requested
Warfarin, and anticoagulant therapy	INR Series
Lithium therapy	Lithium (LI)
Cancer patients receiving Bisphosphonate infusions	Calcium, Magnesium, Phosphate (Ca, Mg, Phos) Urea, Creatinine and Electrolytes (UEC)
Therapy with Vitamin D, its metabolites or analogues.	Albumin, Calcium (Ca)
Chemotherapy for neoplastic disease or immunosuppressant therapy	Full Blood Examination (FBE) Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate (ESR), Retic
Chronic renal failure on dialysis	Urea, Creatinine and Electrolytes. (UEC)
Patient on: Cis-platinum or Cyclosporin	Urea, Creatinine and Electrolytes. (UEC)
Methotrexate or Leflunomide therapy	C Reactive Protein (CRPS) Electrolytes/Liver Function Tests (E/LFT) Urea, Creatinine and Electrolytes (UEC) Calcium, Magnesium, Phosphate Creatine Kinase (CK) Ammonia (Nh3), Amylase, Lipase Triglycerides (Trig), Beta-hydroxybutyrate Glucose (GR), Lactate (Lact), Pyruvate, Lactate dehydrogenase (LDH), Globulin, Total protein (TP), Urate (UA)
Clozaril, Ticlopidine hydrochloride, Methotrexate, Gold, Sulphasalazine, or Penicillamine therapy	Full Blood Examination (FBE) Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate (ESR), Retic

For more information please refer to the MBS, Rule 3 Exemptions: [Medicare Benefits Schedule](#)