



18 August 2017

Dr Michael Harrison  
President  
The Royal College of Pathologists of Australia

Dear Dr Harrison

**Re: MSAC application for a MBS item number for FH genetic testing**

Thank you for writing about this important application.

On behalf of the Australia Atherosclerosis Society and the Familial Hypercholesterolaemia (FH) Australasian Network, we fully endorse this initiative. Genetic testing for familial hypercholesterolaemia accords with recommendations of the national model of care<sup>1</sup> and clinical practice guidelines from international bodies<sup>2,3</sup>. Genetic testing for FH is also supported by health economic evaluations from Australia and Europe<sup>4,5</sup>.

We firmly consider that an MBS item number for genetic testing for FH will improve the care and outcomes of patients with this high-risk condition.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Trevor Mori", written over a horizontal line.

Professor Trevor A Mori  
President of the Australian Atherosclerosis Society

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerald Watts", written in a cursive style.

Professor Gerald F Watts  
Chair of the Familial Hypercholesterolaemia Australasia Network

<sup>1</sup>Watts GF, Sullivan DR, Poplawski N, et al. Familial hypercholesterolaemia: A model of care for Australasia. *Atherosclerosis Supplements*. 2011; 12: 221-63

<sup>2</sup>Nordestgaard B, Chapman M, Humphries S, et al. Familial hypercholesterolaemia is underdiagnosed and undertreated in the general population: guidance for clinicians to prevent coronary heart disease (Consensus Statement of the European Atherosclerosis Society). *Eur Heart J*. 2013; 34: 3478 - 90.

<sup>3</sup>Watts GF, Gidding S, Wierzbicki AS, et al. Integrated Guidance on the Care of Familial Hypercholesterolaemia from the International FH Foundation. *Int J Cardiol*. 2014; 171: 309-25.

<sup>4</sup>Ademi Z, Watts GF, Pang J, et al. Cascade Screening Based on Genetic Testing is Cost-effective: Evidence for the Implementation of Models of Care for Familial Hypercholesterolaemia. *J Clin Lipidol*. 2014; 8: 390-400.

<sup>5</sup>Kerr M, Pears R, Miedzybrodzka Z, et al. Cost effectiveness of cascade testing for familial hypercholesterolaemia, based on data from familial hypercholesterolaemia services in the UK. *Eur Heart J*. 2017: ehx111.