

## Radiologists throw full support behind PIP breast implant scanning

The Australian Diagnostic Imaging Association (ADIA) has applauded the decisive action of the Federal Health Minister to add four Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) items for the assessment of Poly Implant Protheses (PIP) breast implants to the Medicare schedule.

President of ADIA Dr Sue Ulreich said, "Minister Plibersek has recognised the valuable role that MRI can play in ascertaining whether an implant is compromised. This is critical information that every woman with this form of implant should know.

"We commend the Minister in making this examination available to all MRI machines that meet the technical criteria, as well her decision to grant referral rights to general practitioners," she said.

Representing private radiology practices across Australia, ADIA says that MRI is a non-invasive medical test that offers valuable information about breast conditions that cannot be obtained with other imaging techniques, such as mammography or ultrasound.

Dr Ronald Shnier, a Sydney-based expert in MRI, said, "The importance of this initiative is not only that Minister Plibersek has allowed the best test to be funded but that GPs are able to refer to a radiologist.

"We are pleased that the Minister has recognized the importance of MRI and look forward to further initiatives using this technology in other medical conditions that are not yet funded on the Medicare Benefits Schedule or can only be referred by a specialist medical practitioner," he said.

ADIA confirmed that it would work collaboratively with the Department of Health to identify which Medicare eligible and ineligible MRI units provide MRI breast services using a dedicated breast coil, and would also support treating doctors find an appropriate diagnostic imaging provider.

ADIA represents the interests of diagnostic imaging practices and radiologists engaged in the private sector. Its membership comprises both practice groups and single independent practices that come together with a common interest in quality private practice and sustainable government funding.

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