



Australian Society of Ophthalmologists

MEDIA RELEASE

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Media release: ASO supports macular degeneration procedure Medicare cap

THE Australian Society of Ophthalmologists (ASO) has expressed support for a capped Extended Medicare Safety Net (EMSN) benefit for treatment for macular degeneration released in last night's budget.

From November 1, 2012 intravitreal therapy items, used for the treatment of macular degeneration, will have an EMSN cap equal to 80 per cent of the MBS patient rebate or \$236.12 based on current fees.

President Dr Arthur Karagiannis said the ASO supported the new cap to ensure the highest quality of patient care remained affordable and accessible.

"Macular degeneration is a significant cause of blindness and intravitreal therapy is effective for a majority of patients," Dr Karagiannis said.

"This therapy must remain available for all patients and ophthalmologists continue to work with Government to safeguard and guarantee this procedure on behalf of all their patients.

"Patients suffering macular degeneration now have peace of mind they will have ongoing access to what is becoming an increasingly common procedure.

"However the government must ensure these caps remain realistic and in touch with the true cost of safe delivery."

Ends

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