In August 2009 we commissioned new allergy test systems that further extend our testing menu. Our new technology detects Specific IgE to clinically important individual allergen molecules. We continue to offer testing for allergens to whole food and inhalant allergens. The main analyser platforms and reagent systems are the Phadia ImmunoCAP 250, ImmunoCAP 1000 and ISAC ImmunoCAP. Our comprehensive menu is included in this brochure. You may request the allergens using their alphanumeric codes. Please precede these codes with “Specific IgE for”, or “Allergy serology for”, or “RAST for.”

**ALLERGEN SPECIFIC IgE**

**Specific IgE Levels Conferring Very High Risk**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ALLERGEN</th>
<th>kU/L</th>
<th>PPV</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Egg (&lt; 2yo)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egg (&gt; 2yo)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milk (&lt;2yo)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milk (&gt;2yo)</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peanut</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tree nuts</td>
<td>~15</td>
<td>~95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheat</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>74%</td>
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</table>

This table was derived from several large studies in which patients were challenged with the food. The positive predictive value (PPV) of a specific IgE level for a positive challenge was determined. It illustrates that specific IgE levels for individual allergens are like “international currencies” and are not necessarily comparable for a particular level for all the allergens. It defines levels at which a challenge, or exposure, would be highly hazardous for a patient. Importantly, many patients could have serious reactions at much lower levels. We will continue to report allergen specific IgE values in kU/L and a semiquantitative class value. Please note that some patients with a “negative” or “0” class may have detectable traces of specific IgE that can have clinical significance as a marker of early sensitisation or previous significant sensitisation to insect venoms and drugs. In the most important practical advance in laboratory allergy diagnostics, the Phadia ImmunoCAP ISAC system now allows us to determine a patient’s specific IgE to 103 clinically important allergen molecules from 47 different allergens. Tests that define the molecule in a food to which a patient has significant specific IgE, can provide diagnostic and prognostic information for patients with serious food allergy. Our new technology allows us to do this with recombinant ImmunoCAP allergens (page 10) or as a profile with the ISAC system (page 11). We continue to offer other tests important for assessing allergy problems: Total IgE, Tryptase, Eosinophilic Cationic Protein (ECP), C1 esterase and genetic testing for Hereditary Angioedema Types I, II and III (see next page). We have always taken the view that we should offer the best available allergy testing systems and give patients the opportunity to cover the cost of more definitive higher quality testing that the government will not meet. In May 2009, the Medicare Benefits Schedule reduced rebates for Allergy testing by 1%; a reimbursement that is now less than 20% of rebates in comparable countries for laboratory allergy testing. It is almost impossible to answer a simple, sensible laboratory allergy testing request within the constraints of the level of Medicare reimbursement. Consequently, the laboratory is unable to accept Medicare reimbursement for more than very basic allergy testing requests. In this menu, we seek to give your patients clear options and choices when it comes to allergy testing. You and your patients will be pleased to know that although some new allergens and mixes are more expensive, core individual allergens and extended panels are cheaper than previously. Please send email enquiries to kbaumgart@dhm.com.au or Phone: 02 98 555 286 Karl W Baumgart Director, Immunology

**ORDERING ALLERGY TESTS**

We ask that you specifically nominate which allergens you would like tested. Please do not write the allergens to be tested in the clinical notes section of the request form. A comprehensive menu of allergens that we stock and test for is available in the following pages. If allergens are not available we may use cross-reactive ones or advise you on the report. Some “allergy symptoms” may result from intolerance mechanisms (salicylates, amines, MSG, metabisulphite) and detection of IgE to them is not useful or possible. You can request the allergens using their alphanumeric codes. To assist staff performing data entry, we appreciate it if you precede these codes by “Specific IgE for” or “Allergy serology for” or “RAST for.”

If you simply write “RAST” we will now test as follows:

**Child 6 years or less:** dust mite, egg white, cow’s milk, peanut and soy (Panel A1)

**Adult or child over 6 years:** dust mite, cat, dog, grass pollen and alternaria (Panel A2)

If you write “food and inhalant allergens”, we will test a staple food mix (Fx5, that includes egg white, cow’s milk, peanut, soy, wheat and codfish), dust mite, fescue grass pollen—which cross-reacts with almost all other grasses and, alternaria—an outdoor mould with small spores that can easily be inhaled into the small airways (Panel A16). We do recommend some extended panels of individual allergens and can specifically design panels for you and your patients.
TOTAL IgE
Normal total IgE levels (≤ 100 kU/L) do not exclude significant allergies. Patients with normal total IgE levels can still be allergic to bee venom, dust mite, and many other allergens. Significant specific IgE levels are extraordinarily rare in individuals with total IgE values of less than 7 T/U.

Persons with very elevated total IgE levels are more likely to have significant elevations in specific IgE. Very elevated levels of total IgE also occur in patients with atopic dermatitis and parasitic infestations as well as allergic rhinoconjunctivitis/asthma (ARA2). Monitoring total IgE levels is useful in patients on immunosuppression for their severe eczema as well as in ABPA.

TRYPTASE
Elevated levels of mast cell tryptase in peripheral blood indicate systemic mast cell degranulation or an increased number of mast cells that can occur in patients with mastocytosis.

Tryptase is NOT ELIGIBLE to persons with anaphylaxis from foods or non-parenteral agents.

Elevated levels indicate an adverse reaction to a stinging insect or a reaction to an intravenous, intramuscular or subcutaneous diagnostic or therapeutic agent. Any elevated tryptase levels should be repeated after a period of time (3–10 days) to document a return to normal levels.

Persistently elevated levels of tryptase are strongly suggestive of systemic mastocytosis which may not always manifest with urticaria pigmentosa. Since mastocytosis is more common in persons with stinging insect reactions, persons who have had systemic reactions to stinging insects should always have their tryptase level checked together with relevant venen specific IgE. The test is performed on serum. Normal values are <13.5 μg/L.

For these indications, the test is Medicare-reimbursable.

EOSINOPHILIC CATIONIC PROTEIN (ECP)
ECP is elevated in patients with active eosinophilic inflammation. It is a useful marker in the diagnosis and management of hypereosinophilic disorders. ECP is also a useful marker of allergic airways inflammation in young children.

The test is performed on serum. Normal values for children are < 20 μg/L and adults < 15 μg/L.

At present the test is only reimbursed by Medicare when requested in children under 12 years of age for assessment of airways inflammation (please write “asthma” on clinical notes). For all other requests, the fee is $50, non-reimbursable.

Type I & II (C1 ESTERASE INHIBITOR) HEREDITARY ANGIOEDEMA
This should be considered in anyone with a family history of angioedema without urticaria. C1 esterase level and function, C3 and C4 should be measured at the same time to facilitate interpretation of the results. Abnormal levels occur in persons with deficiency which has autosomal dominant inheritance. Persons with this disorder usually experience symptoms from puberty onwards and may have life-threatening episodes which are not responsive to adrenaline. Many patients also experience recurrent abdominal pain due to visceral angioedema. Functional deficiency may occur on a genetic basis or in older persons it can result from an interfering autoantibody with C1 esterase. Abnormal functional assay results should always be repeated.

The C3, C4, quantitive and functional C1-estrases (C1 inhibitor) assays are performed on serum and reimbursed by Medicare. Sequencing for the detection of mutations causing Type I and II HAE is performed by the laboratory and the fee is $335 (non-reimbursable).

EXTENDED ALLERGEN EXAM PANELS
* Our charge for each of these panels is $80, for which a Medicare rebate of $22-55 may be available.

A3 CHILD ALLERGY ASSESSMENT PANEL (REQUEST “IgE AND RAST A3”)
This new panel is designed for the assessment of children at high risk of allergic disease, especially those with eczema, possible food and inhalant allergies. The cost of this panel is $108, for which a Medicare rebate of $22.95 may be available.

A3 Native Trees
A3a Food Screen
A3b Seafood
A3c Nuts
A3d Latex & Foods
A3e Food & Inhalants
A3f Pets
A3g Moulds
A3h Mudlakes
A3i Australian Pine
A3j Cladosporium
A3k Aspergillus fumigatus
A3l Alternaria
A3m Dust mite
A3n Alternaria

OTHER COMMON INITIAL INVESTIGATION PANELS
* Please write the name and code of the panel on the request form.

A1: CHILD 6 years or less

A1: ADULT, or CHILD over 6 years

OTHER COMMON INITIAL INVESTIGATION PANELS
* Please write the name and code of the panel on the request form.

A4 Animal Inhalants
A5 Rural Inhalants
A6 Pets
A7 Moulds

ONE (1) of our panels is within our allowance under Medicare
CORE INDIVIDUAL ALLERGENS

Note: Requests for more than five of these will exceed our allowance under Medicare.

Dermatophagoides farinae
D. pteronyssinus
D. acari
Lepidoglyphus destructor
Synhagus puscellarum
Oxyptilus aethiopis
E. mayaro
Blomia tropicalis
Blomia longiseta
Blomia longiseta

TREE POLLENS
T1 Birch
T7 Oak
T8 Elm
T9 Olive
T11 Sycamore, London plane
T15 White ash
T16 White pine
T17 Japanese cedar
T18 Eucalyptus
T19 Acacia
T21 Mulberry
T23 Italian cypress
T27 Red Cedar
T73 Australian pine
T210 Privet pollen

MOULDS, YEASTS & TOXINS
M1 Penicillium notatum
M2 Cephalosporium acremonium
M3 Aspergillus fumigatus
M4 Mucor racemosus
M5 Candida albicans
M6 Alternaria alternata
M8 Helminthosporium halodes
M9 Fusarium moniliforme
M10 Stachybotrys chartarum
M13 Phoma betula
M14 Glomerella cingulata
M15 Trichoderma viride
M70 Phoma spini-coccis
M80 Stachybotrys atra
M210 Bacillus subtilis
M212 Pseudomonas aeruginosa

PARASITES
P1 Ascariasis
P4 Ascaris

MISCELLANEOUS
D1 Cotton seed
D70 Seminal fluid

OCCUPATIONAL
K75 Isopterae TDI
K76 Isopterae MEX
K77 Isopterae HDI
K80 Formaldehyde/Formal
K82 Latex, Hevea brasiliensis
K84 Sunflower seed

DRUGS
C1 Penicillolol G
C2 Penicillolol V
C5 Ampicillin
C6 Amoxicillin
C7 Cefalexin
C73 Insulin, human
C74 Gelatin, bovine

VEINS
G1 Honey bee (Apis mellifica)
G3 Yellow jacket (Vespula spp. Common wasp)
G4 Paper wasp (Polistes spp.)
G5 Yellow hornet (Dolichovespula arenaria)

FOOD
F1 Egg white
F2 Milk
F3 Fish (cod)
F4 Wheat
F5 Rice
F6 Barley
F7 Oat
F8 Maize (Corn)
F9 Rye
F10 Sesame seed
F11 Buckwheat
F12 Pea
F13 Peanut
F14 Soybean
F15 White bean
F17 Hazel nut
F18 Brazil nut
F19 Hazelnut
F20 Crab
F24 Shrimp
F25 Tomato
F26 Pork
F27 Sheep
F31 Carrot
F33 Onion
F35 Potato
F36 Coconut
F37 Blue mussel
F40 Tuna
F41 Salmon
F44 Strawberry
F45 Yeast (B. cereus)
F47 Garlic
F48 Onion
F49 Apple
F52 Orange
F75 Egg yolk
F79 Gluten
F80 Lobster
F81 Cheese Cheddar type
F82 Cheese Mould type
F83 Chicken meat
F84 Kefi fruit
F85 Celery
F86 Parsley
F87 Melons
F88 Mustard
F89 Mustard
F90 Malt
F91 Mango fruit
F92 Bananas
F93 Cassava
F94 Pear
F95 Peach
F96 Avocados
F97 Peanuts
F98 Cashew nuts
F99 Patatoes
F104 Turmeric
F105 Almonds
F106 Hazelnut
F107 Pine nuts
F108 Walnut
F109 Squid
F110 Guacamole
F111 Brussels sprouts
F112 Grana Padano
F113 Cabbage
F114 Cabbage
F115 Brussels sprouts
F116 Grana Padano
F117 Cabbage
F118 Brussels sprouts
F119 Cabbage
F120 Grana Padano
F121 Cabbage
F122 Brussels sprouts
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F220 Brussels sprouts
F221 Cabbage
F222 Brussels sprouts
F223 Cabbage
F224 Brussels sprouts
F225 Pumpkin
F226 Pumpkin seed
F227 Lentil
F228 Apricot
F229 Cherry
F230 Cucumber
F231 Honey
F232 Pine nut (pinolen)
F233 Plum
F235 Walnut
F236 Squid
F237 Grapes
F238 Broccoli
F239 Asparagus
F240 Aubergine (eggplant)
F241 Green pepper (unripe seed)
F242 Cardamom
F243 Ginger
F244 Chili pepper
F245 Black pepper
F246 Curry
F247 Turkey meat
F248 Red kidney beans
F249 Oyster
F250 Cauliflower
F251 Papaya
F252 Passion fruit
F253 Sweet Chestnut
F254 Great milk
F255 Mandarin
F256 Chia seeds
F257 Green bean
F258 Coriander
F259 Red currant
F260 Hops (fruit corn)
F261 Watermelon
F262 Lime
F263 Lupin
F264 Scallop
F265 Coarse meal (Granica red, E121)
F266 Macadamia nut
F267 Alkaline
F268 Quinoa

MITE & DUST ALLERGENS
D1 Dermatophagoides pteronyssinus
D2 Dermatophagoides farinae
D70 Acarus araneus
D71 Lepidoglyphus destructor
D72 Synhagus puscellarum
D73 Oxyptilus aethiopis
D74 E. mayaro
D201 Blomia tropicalis
H2 House dust

ANIMAL & AVIAN PROTEINS
E1 Cat epithelium & dander
E2 Horse dander
E4 Cow dander
E5 Dog dander
E6 Guinea pig epithelium
E7 Pigeon droppings
E71 Mouse epithelium
E73 Rat epithelium
E77 Budgerigar droppings
E78 Budgerigar feathers
E79 Budgerigar serum proteins
E81 Sheep epithelium
E82 Rabbit epithelium
E85 Chicken feathers
E201 Canary bird feathers
E202 Parrot feathers
E215 Pigeon feathers

GRASS & GRAIN POLLEN
G1 Sweet vernal grass
G2 Bermudas grass
G4 Grass pollen (Fescue)
G5 Ryegrass
G6 Timothy grass
G8 Meadow grass
G10 Johnson grass
G11 Bermuda grass
G15 Cultivated wheat
G17 Pea seed
CORE ALLERGEN MIXES
Core mixed allergens $8
Note: Requests for more than two of these will exceed our allowance under Medicare.

-house dust-

- animal mixes-

- grass mixes-

- tree mixes-

- weed mixes-

- occupational mixes-

- esoteric individual allergens-

ESOTERIC INDIVIDUAL ALLERGENS
Esoteric individual allergens, $12 each
Note: Requests for more than one of these will exceed our allowance under Medicare. Some esoteric allergen results may take up to five weeks.

MOULDS

- mould mixes-

FOOD MIXES

- food mixes-

GRASS MIXES

- grass mixes-

TREE MIXES

- tree mixes-

WEED MIXES

- weed mixes-

OCCUPATIONAL MIXES

- occupational mixes-

PARASITES

- parasites-

MISCELLANEOUS

- miscellaneous-

WEED & CROP POLLENs

- weed & crop pollens-

ORNAMENTALs

- ornamental-

VENDORS

- vendors-

INSECTS

- insects-

DRUGS

- drugs-

MOULDS, YEASTS & TOXINS

- moulds, yeasts & toxins-

MITEs HOUSE DUST & STORAGE

- mites house dust & storage-

ANIMAL & AVIAN PROTEINS

- animal & avian proteins-

MITES

- mites-

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ImmunoCAP ISAC® Allergen Components

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<th>allergen</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Latin Name</th>
<th>Protein Group</th>
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<tr>
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**ANIMALS**

- Bovine (Bos domesticus)
- Canine (Canis familiaris)
- Feline (Felis domesticus)
- Equine (Equus caballus)
- Canis familiaris
- Drosophila melanogaster

**FOODS**

- Milk (Bos, Lactoferrin)
- Egg (Gallus, Ovalbumin)
- Peanut (Arachis, lipocalin)
- Cow's milk (Bovine, Serum albumin)

**GRASSES**

- Poa (Poa annua, pollen)
- Poa (Poa pratensis, pollen)
- Poa (Poa pratensis, grass)
- Poa (Poa pratensis, grass)

**MOUSLES**

- Rabbit (Oryctolagus cuniculus)
- Mouse (Mus musculus)

**PLANTS**

- Berries and grapes (Drosophila melanogaster)
- Timothy (Phleum pratense)
- Peanut (Arachis hypogaea)
- Latex (Hevea brasiliensis, PR-10 protein)
- Grass (Poaceae, PR-10 protein)

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- Peanut (Arachis hypogaea)
- Latex (Hevea brasiliensis, PR-10 protein)
- Grass (Poaceae, PR-10 protein)

**ANIMALS**

- Bovine (Bos domesticus)
- Canine (Canis familiaris)
- Feline (Felis domesticus)
- Equine (Equus caballus)
- Canis familiaris
- Drosophila melanogaster

**FOODS**

- Milk (Bos, Lactoferrin)
- Egg (Gallus, Ovalbumin)
- Peanut (Arachis, lipocalin)
- Cow's milk (Bovine, Serum albumin)

**GRASSES**

- Poa (Poa annua, pollen)
- Poa (Poa pratensis, pollen)
- Poa (Poa pratensis, grass)
- Poa (Poa pratensis, grass)

**MOUSLES**

- Rabbit (Oryctolagus cuniculus)
- Mouse (Mus musculus)

**PLANTS**

- Berries and grapes (Drosophila melanogaster)
- Timothy (Phleum pratense)
- Peanut (Arachis hypogaea)
- Latex (Hevea brasiliensis, PR-10 protein)
- Grass (Poaceae, PR-10 protein)

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**BILLING POLICY FOR ALLERGY TESTING**

Our policy is to respect your request for the allergens and decode them according to our best practice. If you have requested more allergens than our allowance under Medicare, we will bill your patient according to the pricing in this menu. If you have nominated the patient to be bulk-billed or if the patient has signed a Medicare assignment form, this billing policy will still apply for all tests above our allowance under Medicare.

You will see in our Allergy menu that we now list a price for each allergen reagent and that this is organised into different allergen classes. Core individual allergens are $4, core mixed allergens are $8, esoteric individual allergens are $12 and esoteric mixed allergens are also $12. Our highly specialised recombinant (r) or native (n) individual allergen molecules are $40, and the ISAC profile, which tests 103 different individual allergen molecules from 47 different allergens, is $350.

If the price of the allergens requested is more than the Medicare rebate of $22.95, the laboratory will not accept bulk-billing for the request and the patient will be billed according to the price on the menu and may claim a rebate, subject to coning. Practically, this means we will not accept a bulk-billed request for more than five core individual allergens, or two core mixed allergens, or more than one esoteric individual or mixed allergens. However, one core mixed allergen plus three core individual allergens would be covered by the Medicare rebate. Similarly, two core mixed allergens plus one core individual allergen would be covered under our allowance under Medicare. One esoteric mixed or individual allergen plus two core individual allergens or one core mixed allergen would be covered under our allowance under Medicare. A simple table summarises this for you and your patients.

Please note that eligible patients may be able to claim a rebate on four occasions per year for testing performed on separately collected blood, with each episode at least 14 days apart.

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**WHAT CAN YOU ORDER THAT IS MEDICARE REBATABLE?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Our Fee For Different Allergen Types</th>
<th>Medicare Rebatable</th>
<th>Private Bill</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Core individual</td>
<td>$4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core mix</td>
<td>$8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esoteric Individual</td>
<td>$12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esoteric Mix</td>
<td>$12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recombinant/ Native</td>
<td>$40</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Combinations beyond the black line will be privately billed but patients may be eligible for a Medicare rebate of $22.95.

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For further information regarding allergy testing please contact Dr Karl Baumgart, Director of Immunology on (02) 98 555 286 or email kbaumgart@dhm.com.au