

15 June 2017

Professor Robyn Ward
Chair, Medical Services Advisory Committee
Department of Health and Ageing
MDP 851
GPO Box 9848
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Professor Ward

RE: Targeted Consultation for MSAC Application 1490 - Breast MRI for Breast Implant Associated Anaplastic Large Cell Lymphoma for consideration for funding under Medicare

Breast Cancer Network Australia (BCNA) is the peak national organisation for Australians personally affected by breast cancer. We support, inform, represent and connect people whose lives have been affected by breast cancer. BCNA represents more than 120,000 individual members and 300 Member Groups from across Australia.

BCNA is pleased to support Application 1490 for breast MRI to be funded under Medicare for women with breast implant associated large cell lymphoma (ALCL).

It is now established that a causal link between ALCL and breast implants is likely, with the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) announcing this link in December 2016. This announcement follows ongoing monitoring by the TGA over a number of years.

While the risk of women with breast implants developing ALCL is very small, we know that Australia appears to have a higher incidence than other countries internationally. For women who develop ALCL as a result of having a breast reconstruction after mastectomy, it is crucial that women and their clinicians are able to make better informed decisions about treatment and care.

Breast MRI would be of benefit in helping to improve the management of breast implant associated ALCL. As breast MRI provides more accurate imaging than ultrasound, MRI can lead to more tailored and appropriate decisions about treatment. For women, this could mean fewer complications and perhaps ultimately even a lower risk of recurrence of the disease. This is an excellent outcome for women who are affected by this disease.

BCNA believes all women who can benefit from tests and treatments should have equal access to them, and that the inclusion of breast MRI for breast implant associated ALCL on the MBS would help to make this test available to women who could benefit from it.

Yours sincerely



Kathy Wells
Head of Policy, Research and Advocacy