

Assessment guideline for new technology investigations and diagnostics ("Investigations")

Screening investigation of asymptomatic persons is a policy exclusion.

Southern Cross will not reimburse an Investigation if it is developmental/experimental in nature or of a quality that does not meet current international regulatory or manufacturing standards.

A new Investigation of disease states may be reimbursed if there is clear evidence that performance of the Investigation leads to a change of management resulting in improved patient outcomes as compared with current standard investigations.

The false positive rate, if material, must not lead to potential patient harm that outweighs potential patient benefit. The false negative rate must not be such that potential patient harm from missed diagnosis is likely.

The assessment of outcomes and benefit/harm as compared with current standard investigations will usually need to be supported by evidence from randomised controlled trials. A cost-benefit assessment will be undertaken if these levels of evidence are met.