

Change in our fee policy from July 2022

As your family GP practice we pride ourselves in excellent service to our patients at all times.

From the 1st of July 2022 we are changing our fee policy and becoming a fully private billing practice.

This means there will be a GAP or out of pocket cost for all patients including concession and pension card holders.

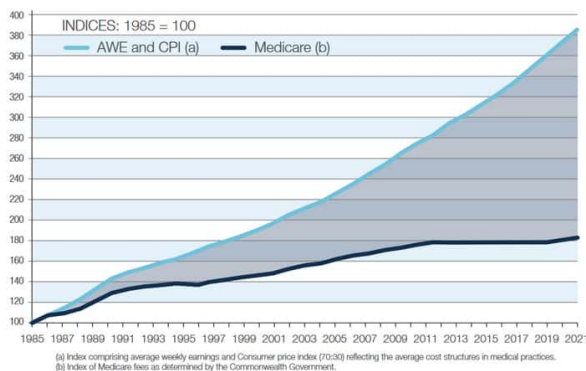
Why have we decided to become a private billing practice?

The Medicare Benefit schedule MBS patient rebates have failed to keep pace with inflation and do not reflect the cost of delivering high quality general practice services.

There are many costs, including staff wages and medical equipment. We all know that the cost of living has increased in recent years and costs to medical practices are no different. In fact, medical equipment costs increase at more than twice the rate of inflation every year (1). Despite the increase in costs, which are being felt by everyone, the government has not increased the Medicare rebate enough to support your ongoing healthcare.

In reality, Medicare rebates have barely increased in the last 10 years. Labor started the Medicare “freeze” in 2013 and the Liberal coalition continued it. As a result, the current funding for General Practice is less than half of what it should be if it had kept up with the real world costs.

The graph below shows the difference between rising costs of living (the top line) and the amount the government invests in your healthcare (bottom line). You will notice that these lines are moving further apart. This is why we are now charging a fee to sustain the viability of general practice.



The problem is even greater. Due to government neglect of General Practice, less and less doctors are choosing to become GP's(2). If this trend continues then you may not even be able to see a GP in Australia in the future.

General practice is the most efficient and cost effective part of the health system. We have set our fees slightly below the Australian Medical Association this means that we can provide you with the best quality care.

Pension and Concession card holders will receive a reduced gap however we will require payment in full on the day.
 Using our eftpos machine your Medicare rebate will be put directly back into your bank account.

Fees from 1st July 2022

	Private Fee	Pension & Health Care Card holders
Standard	\$84.70	\$59.75
Consult	Gap \$44.95	Gap \$20.00
	\$39.75	\$39.75
	Medicare rebate	Medicare rebate
	\$143.40	\$116.95
Long	Gap \$66.45	Gap \$40.00
Consult	\$76.95	\$76.95
	Medicare rebate	Medicare Rebate
	\$84.70	\$59.75
Telephone	Gap \$44.95	Gap \$20.00
Consult	\$39.75	\$39.75
	Medicare rebate	Medicare rebate
	On the day gap	
Procedures	Payment \$65.00	

Full payment is required at the time of consultations

- Telephone consults will only have a Medicare rebate if the patient has been seen in clinic within the last 12 months.
- Commonwealth Senior Card holders will be charged concession card holder fees.
- Children 11 and under will be bulk billed.
- DVA card holders will continued to be bulk billed.

What is the Medicare safety net and how will that benefit you?

As a Medicare Card holder, you are automatically enrolled in the Original Medicare Safety Net (OMSN) program. Once your out-of-hospital (GP and specialist consultations, radiology and pathology) total gap payments reach a certain threshold, you will receive 100% of the Schedule Fee for out-of-hospital services for the rest of the calendar year.

As a Medicare Card holder, you are also eligible for the Extended Medicare Safety Net (EMSN).

The EMSN has two thresholds

General and Concessional/Family Tax Benefit Part A. When you reach the General Threshold, your benefit will apply to out-of-hospital medical services and this will apply for the rest of the calendar year.

You'll receive 100% of the Medicare Schedule Fee and the lowest of the following:

- 80% of the out of pocket amount
- Extended Medicare Safety Net benefit caps.

To find out more about information for individual or families and the benefit scheme go to

www.servicesaustralia.gov.au