Blackwood Clinic

Increase in fees from November 2023

As your family GP Practice we pride ourselves in excellent service to our patients.

From November 2023 we will be making some changes to our billing policy and increasing our fees. The Federal Government also announced in the budget an increase of the Medicare rebate starting in July. This means you will receive more back from Medicare.

Why are we increasing our fees?

We all know that the cost of living has increased in recent months and costs to medical practices are no different. In fact, medical equipment and consumable costs increase at more than twice the rate of inflation every year. Despite the increase in costs, which are being felt by everyone, the government has not increased the Medicare rebate enough to support your ongoing health care. We have a large team of dedicated GPs, Nurses and support staff who are committed to improving patient health outcomes and ensuring the best possible care. 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.

Changes that will effect you from November 2023

- Fee increase as per schedule over the page.

- Children 8 and under will be bulk billed, this was previously 11 and under. All Children over 8 will be charged accordingly.

Fees from November 2023

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Item	Pension Gap	Pension Full Amount	Medicare Rebate
3	$17.50	$36.45	$18.95
23	$25.00	$66.40	$41.40
36	$50.00	$130.10	$80.10
44	$60.00	$178.00	$118.00

Standard Gap	Standard (Full Amount)	Medicare Rebate
$30.20	$49.15	$18.95
$51.00	$92.40	$41.40
$77.00	$157.10	$80.10
$95.00	$213.00	$118.00

Phone Consults	Pension Gap	Pension Full Amount	Medicare Rebate
91890	$17.50	$36.45	$18.95
91891	$25.00	$66.40	$41.40

Standard Gap	Standard (Full Amount)	Medicare Rebate
$30.20	$49.15	$18.95
$51.00	$92.40	$41.40

Iron infusion	Pension Gap	Pension Full Amount	Medicare Rebate
36	$140	$220.10	$80.10

Standard Gap	Standard (Full Amount)	Medicare Rebate
$140	$220.10	$80.10

Excision - Gap total $65.00 or $75.00 to the doctors discretion
Children 8 and under bulk billed
Care plans and Care plan reviews Bulk Billed
75 Plus Health Checks Bulk Billed

A cancellation fee may be charged if 4 hours notice is not given.

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How will the fee be processed?

You will be charged the full private fee on the day and we can then electronically process your Medicare rebate on your behalf. If you have a debit card we can process the rebate immediately, otherwise we can lodge the rebate into your bank account These fees also apply to telehealth appointments, our reception staff will contact you to collect payment over the phone after your consult.

**Please note a surcharge will apply when you using your visa or master cards.

What is the Medicare safety net and how can this 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**