

Letter to Patients About Increased Medical Fees

Today Medicare rebates do not cover the full cost of providing you with medical care. This is because the rate at which successive governments have indexed the Medicare Schedule fees has been substantially lower than increases in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and average weekly earnings.

The reality is that Medicare rebates do not cover the cost of providing you with a safe and high quality service. The fees charged by this practice have to cover all of our practice costs including employing receptionists and practice nurses, and meeting our operating expenses such as rent, medical equipment, electricity, computers and insurance.

The Government has announced it will not be indexing the Medicare Schedule fees this year. Medicare rebates have been frozen since **1 July 2014** with no plans to increase fees in the foreseeable future.

It is not possible for this practice to meet our running costs each year without increasing our fees. The Medicare rebate freeze means that this practice is no longer able to bulk bill all of our patients.

From 3rd July our practice will be charging you the following fees for our most common services:

	Fee	Rebate	Gap
Standard	70	37.60	32.40
Long	110	72.80	37.20
Extended	135	107.15	27.85

If you have extenuating circumstances please discuss these with your treating medical practitioner.

If you wish to let the Government know that the Medicare rebate is insufficient to assist you in meeting the cost of your medical care, please contact your local Member of Parliament at http://www.aph.gov.au/Senators_and_Members/Members and/or the Minister for Health:

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