

## OUR FEES ARE CHANGING

Dear patients, **from 1<sup>st</sup> of August 2022, a \$30 gap fee for consultations**

**The following patients will continue to be BULK-BILLED to Medicare for all general consultations with no gap fee:**

- Patients aged under 18 and over 65
- Patients with Health Care Card, Pensioner Concession Card, DVA cards, NDIS clients

ALL patients are encouraged to book longer appointments if you anticipate it will be a longer consultation (complex or multiple issues). Otherwise, the doctor may ask you to return for another appointment. This is to ensure that the doctors run on time and have a less waiting time for all patients.

<b>Service Description</b>	<b>Fee</b>	<b>Medicare rebate</b>	<b>Out of Pocket/Gap</b>
Standard consultation (<15 min)	<b><u>\$70</u></b>	\$39.75	\$30
Long Consultation (15-30 min)	<b><u>\$107</u></b>	\$76.95	\$30

**Our Practice may also require you to pay for any additional dressings, vaccinations, and procedures.**

### **Online Medicare Claiming**

For your convenience, we can transmit your Medicare claim instantly using Tyro, so your rebate appears in your account instantly. This also saves you the hassle of lodging your claim at a Medicare office. Please ensure that your details are correct and updated with Medicare.

### **Why have we switched to Mixed Billing?**

Bulk Billing rates have been frozen and barely increasing over the last 10 years. The Medicare rebate is the minimum the Government wishes to pay a Doctor, but they are worth so much more and so is your practice. Doctors spend several years training and are continuously studying to ensure their level of care is high.

Meanwhile, inflation, wages, rent, overheads have all been rising at tremendous percentages over the years. Add the pandemic in the mix and all the extra costs continuously incurred, it is hard for us as a medical clinic to survive on bulk billing alone and provide patients with quality care, particularly after hours. We would like to sustain a long term future whereby we can provide for the community, attract GPs to our clinic, and ensure a high level of quality of care.

By paying a gap fee means we will be able to provide better quality of care to patients and be viable as a business, making us sustainable for the future to support our community and the workforce within our Practice.