

Fee Changes at Kalamunda February 2023

The Value of Quality Healthcare

Our fees allow us to provide our patients with highly skilled staff that deliver an accessible, affordable and quality service. We see the value in promoting preventative medicine to you, and not just providing a reactive service where you may feel rushed, and the doctor feels rushed.

Why Can't You Bulk Bill Everyone?

Unfortunately, the Medicare rebate, your rebate, only covers a small portion of the costs of providing high-quality healthcare. Community General Practice is not subsidised by State or Federal Governments, unlike the hospital system. We are a locally owned small business, like many other General practices.

Successive Federal Governments have frozen your Medicare rebate or only lifted it marginally and we are receiving a lower rebate when 'bulk billing' a patient. The costs of running our practice have continuously increased in that time, and we can no longer absorb this cost if our practice is to keep its doors open and provide the quality care we pride ourselves on.

We encourage you to voice your concerns to your Federal Member of Parliament (listed below), as the Federal Government dictates the level of your Medicare rebates. The recent changes have effectively resulted in the value of a GP consult being diminished, when in fact more funding should be placed in Primary care.

Mr Matthew Hughes MLA	Kalamunda	(08) 9293 4747
Hon. Lorna Harper MLC	Midland	(08) 9274 8484

Gradual introduction of fees for Pensioners, Concession Card Holders & children

For bulk-billed patients, the amount paid by Medicare is significantly less than the true cost to deliver the service. Federal Governments have not funded General Practice and primary health care to the levels required for us to continue to deliver quality health care.

To maintain our standards, we have made the decision to gradually introduce discounted fees which will apply to all pensioners, concession card holders and children. This will occur for some Doctors from February 2023 at Kalamunda and may be rolled out to other sites in the future.

Medicare rules dictate that you will be required to pay the fee in full, and we will then claim the Medicare rebate, on your behalf. The Medicare rebate will be paid back to your bank account within 24 hours, leaving you out of pocket for the difference.

If you are experiencing severe financial hardship, you should have those discussions with your doctor during the consultation. The reception staff are not able to make decisions on behalf of the doctor.

The Australian Medical Association (AMA) has worked out the true costs of running a quality general practice. Each year, it provides updated recommendations on the fees doctors should charge. Our fees are **less** than the AMA's recommendations.

Concession Card holders, Pensioners & Children 12 years and younger are now being asked to pay a private contribution towards their general visit for some Doctors at the practice. The fee will be a reduced fee compared to a full private fee. The HCC will continue to enable a heavily discounted cost of your prescriptions at your Pharmacy, the original intention of the card.

We will continue to accept the Medicare rebate ('Bulk billing') for Chronic Disease Management Plans and Health Assessments, so there will not be an out-of-pocket expense for those items. These processes are vital for anyone with a chronic disease so please discuss with your doctor.

DVA Department of Veterans Affairs cards will continue to be bulk billed.

The below fee schedule is for:

Dr George Ruiz Dr David Jones Dr Narelle Kealley Dr Suzie Bicker
 Dr Samborski Dr Dan Stringer (skin checks) Dr Shivi Rayar

Appointment Type	Patient	Fee	Medicare Rebate	Gap (out of pocket cost)
Standard Consult (Item 23)	Private 13 years & over	\$85.00	\$39.75	\$45.25
	Concession Card Holders, 12 years & under	\$65.00	\$39.75	\$25.25
	DVA	-	\$53.50	Nil
Long Consult (Item 36)	Private 13 years & over	\$140.00	\$76.95	\$63.05
	Concession Card Holders, 12 years & under	\$110.00	\$76.95	\$33.05
	DVA	-	\$96.25	Nil
Extended Consult (Item 44)	Private 13 years & over	\$190.00	\$113.30	\$76.70
	Concession Card Holders, 12 years & under	\$160.00	\$113.30	\$46.70
	DVA	-	\$130.30	Nil
Before 8am Consult Standard (Item 5020)	Private 13 years & over	\$95.00	\$51.80	\$43.20
	Concession Card Holders, 12 years & under	\$95.00	\$51.80	\$43.20
	DVA	-	\$67.35	Nil

The following Drs will continue to BULK BILL Pension Card Holders & children 15 years and younger (until next review)

Dr Ewen McLean Dr Mike Civil Dr Kevin Nikellys
 Dr Laura Surmon Dr Peter Richardson Dr Sam Cogle