

# Changes to Medicare



## What's changed with Medicare?

Recently, the Government began offering medical practices across Australia incentives aimed at encouraging bulk billing.

At practices able to take up this offer, the full cost of most GP consultations will be paid as a full Medicare rebate – so, no gap fee for you.

## Did our practice take up the Bulk Billing Practice Incentive Program?

We looked carefully at what was offered and understand that patients want affordable healthcare. We know you also want comprehensive, high-quality care.

The reality is the new incentive payments still don't cover the cost of care for all patients, particularly for longer and more complex consultations.

As the incentives alone won't allow us to provide the care you expect and deserve, we will continue to charge a fee for most consultations.

This is not new to our practice, it is a continuation of the fee-paying arrangements we already have in place.

## Why should I still come to this practice if I can go to another bulk billing practice?

Of course, it is your health and your choice. We value you as our patient and want to maintain a long-term relationship with you. We also know that health outcomes are better under the continuous, comprehensive care of a GP.

Every practice is different with its own costs of providing care.

It's important to remember that each practice makes its own decision based on what's sustainable for them, but all GPs remain committed to putting patient care first.

## Are you giving feedback to the Government that Medicare is still not as well funded as it needs to be?

Yes. The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) is the peak representative organisation for general practice and continues to advocate for increased patient Medicare rebates for the better health and wellbeing of all Australians.



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