

Monday 1 August 2022

To The Valued Patients of Flynns Beach and Lachlan Medical Centres

Notice of Price Increase effective 29 August 2022

Flynns Beach Medical and Lachlan Medical Centres have always prided ourselves on providing friendly, high-quality care to our patients and the greater community, and would like to continue doing this well into the future.

Successive federal governments have frozen the Medicare rebate or only lifted it marginally. The costs of running our practice have increased around 5% per year and yet the Medicare rebate has increased at around 0.5% per year. Like most households, we have also had price hikes for the majority of our expenses, including utilities, insurance, registrations, maintenance, medical consumables, accreditation fees and staffing costs.

We have up till now absorbed these cost increases but can no longer continue to do so if our practice is to remain open. The Medicare rebate, your rebate, only covers a small portion of the cost of providing quality health care. Unlike the hospital system, Community General Practice is not subsidised by state or federal governments, we are a privately and locally owned small business, as are many other general practices.

After very careful consideration, we have had to make a number of changes to our billing policy in order to ensure that we can continue to provide high quality patient care. With rising costs and limited Medicare rebates, it has become necessary to both increase our fees and make some changes to those patients who can access bulk billing.

Keeping the Practice viable so we can continue to serve the community and avoid closure, a risk facing many Practices, is at the core of our fee changes. Unfortunately, it is not possible for this practice to meet our running costs each year without increasing our fees.

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:

Please find included with this letter some reference material/links which you may find informative and discusses the issues currently being faced by medical practices.

Thank you for your understanding.

Flynns Beach Medical Centre and Lachlan Medical Centre

DR CHLOE BLANSHARD *PROV 4312742H*
DR SAMUEL BOUWER *PROV 2387167B*
DR JUDITH DEGNER *PROV 2436998J*
DR BENJAMIN GORDON *PROV 2267974B*

DR JASON HEISE *PROV 5373001K*
DR MURRAY SCHOFIELD *PROV 4591545T*
DR JACINTA SPRY *PROV 4239537K*
DR FIONA MCDONALD *PROV 021121JT*
DR MICHAEL POTTER *PROV 2792829Y*

DR STEPHEN PURSS *PROV 036335FY*
DR HELEN ROSENTHALL *PROV 035150GY*
DR JAN SNOW *PROV 2638693A*
DR JUN ZHANG *PROV 4279874H*

<https://www.news.com.au/lifestyle/health/local-doctors-issue-urgent-warning-on-medicare/news-story/966f3136a730c968759abfe320651ca8>

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-06-23/gp-clinics-scrap-bulkbilling-doctor-shortages-medicare/101174650>

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-06-01/tristar-medical-clinics-collapse-bulk-billing-clinics-may-close/101116194>

The following fees for our most common services will apply from the 29 August 2022

Standard Consultations				
Consultation Time	Item Number	Our Fee	Medicare Rebate	Gap
<5min	Level A Item 3	\$40.00	\$18.20	\$21.80
6-19min	Level B Item 23	\$86.00	\$39.75	\$46.25
20-39min	Level C Item 36	\$135.00	\$76.95	\$58.05
40 +min	Level D Item 44	\$180.00	\$113.30	\$66.70
Saturday morning	Level B Item 23	\$105.00	\$39.75	\$65.25
	Level D Item 44	\$150.00	\$76.95	\$73.05
Skin Cancer Consultation and Procedures				
Skin Check 30min	Level C Item 36	\$140.00	\$76.95	\$63.05
Biopsy	30071	\$69.00	\$46.95	\$22.05
Skin Procedures	Benign and most BCC/SCC	\$250 - \$550	<i>Depends on size, location, and pathology</i>	
	Melanoma	\$550 - \$850		
Cryotherapy	Benign lesions including wart therapy	\$30.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Dressings and Infusions				
Dressings Fee	Simple	\$20.00	\$0.00	\$20.00
	Level A Item 3 Complex	\$50.00	18.20	\$31.80
Iron infusions	*Level B Item 23 Full	\$199.00	\$39.10*	\$159.90

* Doctor attendance required for Medicare rebates to apply

A full list of fees will be displayed in both practices.

Chronic Disease Management plans for those eligible - Care Plans and Care Plan Reviews and Annual Health Assessments, >75-year-old Health Assessments and ATSI Health Assessments will continue to be bulk billed.

Telehealth consultations are privately billed.

As we are all aware, appointment times are limited at Flynn's Beach and Lachlan Medical Centres. If you need to cancel your appointment, we respectfully request as much notice as possible. Patients who fail to attend or give less than 2 hours' notice to cancel their appointment, will incur a cancellation fee.

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As of 29 August 2022 Flynn's Beach Medical Centre and Lachlan Medical Centre will:

Continue to Bulk Bill routine visits for Children under the age of 16,
Pension Card Holders (Blue) and DVA Gold Card Holders



Please note: some services provided by GP's outside of routine visits may attract a fee – your GP will discuss these fees with you.

The Health Care Card and Commonwealth Seniors Health Card
will no longer be bulk billed for routine appointments



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