

Dear Patient,

I am writing to inform you of important changes to my billing practices for DVA, Aged Pension and Health Care Card holders that will come into effect on 2nd April 2024. There is no change to the billing of people without these pension or health care cards.

From 2nd April 2024, on weekdays, I will be charging pension and health care card holders a gap fee of \$25 for a standard consultation and \$50 for a double consultation. No concessional billing on Saturdays. Full fees apply for all patients.

Appointments booked prior to this notification will be billed as per my current fee schedule.

I **will not** charge any gap fee for:

- Chronic disease management plan appointments
- Chronic disease management plan reviews
- Repeat script only telehealth appointments
- Repeat referral only telehealth appointments
- Vaccination only appointments
- Healthy Heart Checks
- Health assessments (for those that are eligible for these item numbers under Medicare rules)
- Follow up pregnancy appointments after the initial visit with myself or other member of the Quinns Mindarie Pregnancy Care Team (QMPCT). This is where I/ the QMPCT Team are providing full shared care.
- Home Medicine Reviews
- DVA Gold Card holders
- Children and adolescents aged under 16 years

Please note that these changes apply to me only and not all the doctors at Quinns Mindarie Super Clinic.

Every GP at Quinns Mindarie Super Clinic is an independent contractor, meaning that we contract our services to the clinic. Essentially, we are all individual small businesses. We are not employees and do not earn a salary. We earn money as a fee for service which Medicare pays you a rebate for consultations with me. A percentage of this fee is paid to the clinic to cover administration, reception and nursing costs. Up until this point, I have accepted this rebate as my full payment.

The reasons for my decision to charge a gap fee relate to the increased costs of providing medical care and successive governments' lack of action in making changes to the Medicare system. This financial year, the Medicare rebate paid to you increased by 1.6% (65 cents) for a standard consultation. Inflation increased by 6.9%. Between 2014-2018 there was no increase at all to the Medicare rebate for GP consultations.

For GPs to continue to be able to practise under the current Medicare rates, the pressure is to have shorter appointments with our patients. This is not how I want to practise medicine. Time is needed to offer quality health care, especially to those with complex health care needs. It is no longer financially viable for me to practise in this way without asking all patients to share the cost of their healthcare.

I understand that many of you will have concerns about these changes. If so, I encourage you to write to your local federal member of parliament and/or the Federal Health Minister to express your concern, as I will be doing.

Dr Sarah Picard 02/04/2024

Private Fees for Clinic & Telehealth Appts			
*These are consultation fees only			
Additional fees will be incurred for tests and additional treatment			
Consultation	Total Fee	Medicare rebate	Your Out Of Pocket
Level A Non-Concessional	\$43.00	\$18.85	\$24.15
Level A - Concessional	\$33.85	\$18.85	\$15.00
Level B Non-Concessional (less than 20 mins)	\$88.00	\$41.20	\$46.80
Level B Concessional (less than 20 mins)	\$66.20	\$41.20	\$25.00
Level C Non-Concessional (20-39 mins)	\$176.00	\$79.70	\$96.30
Level C Concessional (20-39 mins)	\$129.70	\$79.70	\$50.00
Level D Non-Concessional (at least 40 mins)	\$250.00	\$117.40	\$132.60
Level D Concessional (at least 40 mins)	\$192.40	\$117.40	\$75.00
Routine Antenatal Appt (16500) For Non-Concession Card Holders (having full shared care at QMSC)	\$68.95	\$43.95	\$25.00
Mental Health Care Plans > 20 mins Non-Concessional	Depends on Consult length	Depends on Consult length	\$92.25: for 20-40 mins \$132.60: for >40 mins
Mental Health Care Plans > 20 mins Concessional	Depends on Consult length	Depends on Consult length	\$50: for 20-40 mins \$75: for 40 mins +
Mental Health Care Plan Review > 20 mins Non-Concessional	\$170.80	\$78.55	\$92.25
Mental Health Care Plan Review > 20 mins Concessional	\$128.55	\$78.55	\$50.00
Mental Health Care Consult > 20 mins Non-Concessional	\$170.80	\$78.55	\$92.25
Mental Health Care Consult > 20 mins Concessional	\$128.55	\$78.55	\$50.00
Saturday appointments 8-1pm Level A	\$43.75	\$18.85	\$24.90
Saturday appointments 8-1pm Level B	\$99.00	\$41.20	\$57.80
Saturday appointments 8-1pm Level C	\$198.00	\$79.70	\$118.30
Procedural Fees will depend on the procedure time/complexity	\$30.00 to \$175.00	Nil	\$30.00 to \$175.00
Travel consultation standard (less than 20 mins)	\$88.00	\$41.20	\$46.80