

From 18.7.2022 our fees will change to enable us to continue offering quality health care in light of Medicare rebates inadequately covering the costs incurred in general practice.

At Sippy Downs Family Clinic we have continued to offer bulk billing to Pensioner and Health Care Card Holders, Commonwealth Seniors Card Holders and Children 15 and under.

Currently when your doctor bulk bills you, you assign the rebate the federal government would make to you to your doctor to cover the cost of your healthcare. General practitioners do not work for Medicare and doctors who work at our practice are contractors. Payments made directly by their patients to them or the assigned fee you ask Medicare to pay them, provide them with an income and as contractors has to cover their ongoing going expenses such as continuing education, annual and sick leave, insurance, and fees paid to the practice for services provided e.g. nursing assistance, medical consumables, practice maintenance and repairs, administrative staff.

The Medicare rebate was frozen for many years and the increase in the rebate has been minimal in the past two years. General practice can no longer provide health care services where the average cost of a providing these services is more than double the Medicare rebate amount.

For our practices to remain viable and accessible to our patients it means that we can no longer offer bulk billing to any group other than children 15 and under.

From 18th July 2022 we will be charging a private fee to all patients irrespective of concession cards. Only children 15 and under will continue to be bulk billed except on weekends.

We will be charging a fee of \$84.75 for a standard consultation weekdays to patients *without* a concession card. The Medicare rebate is \$39.75. We will be charging a fee of \$59.75 for a standard consultation weekdays to patients *with* a concession card. The Medicare rebate is \$39.75. **For our full fee schedule please check our Fee tab which will be updated from 18th July 2022.**

We have taken this decision reluctantly and respect the right of each doctor to bill the full private fee or a minimal fee.