

## Changes to Balcatta Family Practice Fees 1<sup>st</sup> August 2023

Please also note the changes to Bulk Billing hours below

This change is due to rising costs and insufficient funding from Medicare to sustain the viability of the practice. It is required so that we may continue to offer quality care while covering the increasing costs of running the practice.

### Fees

*Please note these fees continue to remain much lower than the AMA's recommended fees of 23=\$98 & 36=\$180*

#### Monday - Friday

Standard Consultation	15 minutes - 1 issue	Item 23	\$82	Gap \$40.80
Long Consultation	30 minutes -2 issues	Item 36	\$140	Gap \$60.30

#### Saturday

Standard Consultation	15 minutes - 1 issue	Item 23	\$90	Gap \$48.80
Long Consultation	30 minutes -2 issues	Item 36	\$160	Gap \$80.30

### Bulk Billing

The below groups will continue to be Bulk Billed between the hours of **10 am-345pm on weekdays**

1. Aged Pension card holders
2. Veterans
3. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples
4. School-aged children and teenagers
5. Patients receiving vaccinations

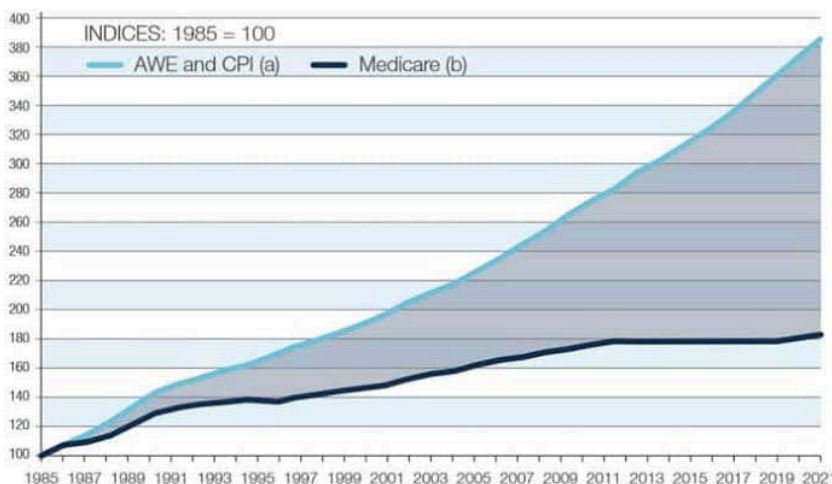
*who participate in Care Plans and/or Health Assessments*

***All appointments booked before 10 am and after 345pm on weekdays and ALL day Saturday will be Privately billed***

### Medicare\_FACTS

#### What is your Medicare Rebate?

It is the dollar amount the Government has decided to *contribute*, to cover the costs of patient health services.



(a) Index comprising average weekly earnings and Consumer price index (70:30) reflecting the average cost structures in medical practices.  
(b) Index of Medicare fees as determined by the Commonwealth Government.

Health care costs

Medicare rebate

When Medicare was introduced in 1985 this was 85% of the AMA's recommended fees. However over time, successive Governments have failed to increase the rebate in line with inflation, and from 2013 to 2018 the rebate was completely frozen as a cost-cutting measure for the Government.

Medicare rebates do not cover the cost of providing you with a safe and high-quality service. Fees charged must cover all practice costs including employing receptionists and practice nurses, operating expenses such as rent, medical equipment, electricity, computers, and insurance. The Pandemic has added to these costs including cleaning, Personal and Protective equipment, and instating new systems to ensure safety for staff and patients.

### **What is Bulk Billing?**

Bulk Billing is when the Doctor accepts your Medicare Rebate (paid by the Government at a later date) as full payment for the health service delivered. Currently, this means the Doctor accepts a > 50% reduction in fees.

### **Why can some practices Bulk Bill all patients?**

The Medicare rebate is the same whether a patient spends 4 minutes or 19 minutes with the Doctor. These practices will generally offer much shorter appointment times and see more patients per hour to cover the operating costs of the practice.

At Balcatta Family Practice we believe holistic care takes time, so we offer 15-30 minute consultations.

### **How can I change the situation for the future?**

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](http://www.aph.gov.au/Senators_and_Members/Members) and/or the Minister for Health

We **Thank you** for your continued support,  
The Balcatta Family Practice Team