Fee Guide

St John General Practice Cannington

Standard Weekday Consultation Fees (from 1 July 2024)				
Appointment type	Consultation time	Consultation fee from:*	Medicare rebate to patient:	Out of pocket cost to patient from:
In the practice				
Standard	Up to 20 minutes	$92.85	$42.85	**$50.00**
Long	20 to 40 minutes	$132.90	$82.90	**$50.00**
Prolonged	> 40 minutes	$172.15	$122.15	**$50.00**
Telehealth				
Short	Under 6 minutes	$69.60	$19.60	**$50.00**
Standard	6 to 20 minutes	$92.85	$42.85	**$50.00**

* The full consultation fee is required to be paid at the time of the consult. The rebate amount will be deposited back into the patient's account from Medicare.

Children, pensioners and Health Care Card holders

Our doctors will bulk bill children under 16, pensioners 65 and over and Health Care Card holders with a valid Medicare Card. Effective from 1st July 2024 this will also include Telehealth consultations.

Weekends and public holidays

Weekends and public holidays may incur a consultation surcharge.

Payment

Various appointment types will require confirmation by requesting your credit card details via an SMS link (HotDoc). Please note that if you are bulk billed, your credit card will not be charged.

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Out of pocket costs for other services

Extra costs may be incurred for consumables and other services such as skin checks, procedures, iron infusions, worker's compensation, private and commercial driver's license. Please discuss this with our friendly receptionists prior to booking.

Scripts

If you require a script, you are required to make an appointment to see your regular GP. You may be able to do this via a telehealth appointment. Some doctors may provide electronic repeat prescriptions via the HotDoc booking platform; however, this facility is for their regular patients only.

Cancellation policy

If you are unable to attend for a scheduled appointment, please contact us to cancel or change your appointment time. A fee will be charged for failure to attend or for cancellation with less than one hour's notice.
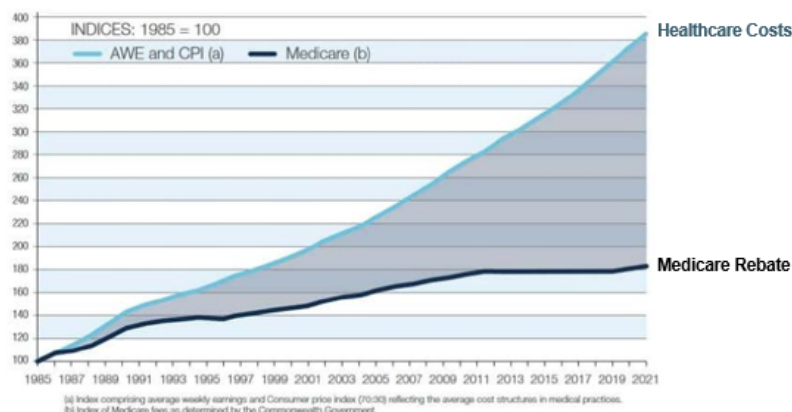
Please see the Patient Information Guide for more information.

Why don't we bulk bill?

Bulk billing is when a doctor accepts the Medicare rebate paid by the government as full payment for the service they have delivered.

When the government first introduced Medicare in 1985 the rebate was 85% of the Australian Medical Association (AMA) recommended fee. However successive governments have failed to increase the Medicare rebate in line with inflation, and now the rebate amount is less than half of what the AMA recommended appointment fee is (which has increased yearly in line with inflation). So, when patients are bulk billed, the medical centre receives only $42.85, instead of our standard fee of $80.00 - $90.00 (in line with the recommended AMA schedule).

The graph below reflects the rising 'cost of healthcare' compared to 'Medicare rebate' since 1985.

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The fees generated from patient appointments have to cover all the expenses of running a medical centre, including wages of reception, administration and cleaning staff, building lease, electricity, phones, computer and software fees, insurance etc, all of which have been increasing with inflation. As the gap between rebate increases and cost increase widens, it has become more difficult to maintain a viable business by bulk billing all patients.

How do other clinics manage to bulk bill all patients?

Some practices may offer shorter appointments, spend less time with patients and increase the number of appointments per hour. The Medicare rebate is the same whether a patient spends six minutes or 15 minutes with the doctor.

Our aim at St John General Practice is to provide high-quality, individualised patient-centred care that puts our patients first, making them feel supported and respected.

If you have any questions about our fees, please do not hesitate to contact any of our friendly reception staff. We thank you for your continued support.