



Suite 101, 10 Century Circuit  
 Baulkham Hills NSW 2153  
 ph: (02) 8850 7575 - fax: (02) 8850 7272  
 email: [centurycircuitmedicalcentre@gmail.com](mailto:centurycircuitmedicalcentre@gmail.com)

Dear Patient,

We have tried to keep our practice a bulk billing practice as we feel high quality primary care should be accessible to all. However, the reality is that we are no longer able to sustain this model of primary care due to the ever-increasing overheads faced on a daily basis. We would like to continue to provide quality primary care but in order to do this we must change our billing policy to mixed billing. Mixed billing means that we will still continue to bulk bill patients with current concession cards (pension and health care card holders, DVA card holders and children under 18), all other patients (18 - 64 yrs old) will be charged a private fee in accordance with the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) items.

***Chronic Disease Management (Care Plans), Health Assessments, Diabetes check and other Health, Pension cardholders, DVA cardholders, Health Care cardholders, Concession cardholders, children under 18 years, patients over 65 years, and phone consultations will continue to be BULK BILLED***

Our fee list as of the 3rd July 2023 will be as follows:

MBS Item	Practice Fee	Medicare Rebate	Out of Pocket	AMA Rates
3 – (<6 minutes)	\$40	\$18.85	\$21.15	\$42.50
23 - (Up to 20 minutes)	\$65	\$41.20	\$23.80	\$86.00
36 - (At least 20 minutes)	\$103	\$79.70	\$23.30	\$158.00
44 – (At least 40 minutes)	\$140	\$117.40	\$22.60	\$240.00

\*AMA Rates = Australian Medical Association recommended rates.

The Medicare rebate is not to pay the doctor for the services they provide, the Medicare rebate is what the Government pays the patient to help pay for their healthcare.

Payments for all privately billed services will need to be paid in full on the day. We have Eftpos facilities which allows your rebate to be paid directly back into your account when you use a debit card. Medicare are unable to pay rebates onto a credit card.

Unfortunately, we are unable to accept a gap only payment on the day of service (the difference between your Medicare rebate and the practice fee). General Practitioners have been asking for this for years so the patient does not have to pay the full fee at the time of service. However successive governments have refused to legislate changes to allow this.

We hope you understand that our need to adopt this new mixed billing policy is not about higher pay for our doctors, it is simply a means to the sustainability and viability of our practice.

We do believe that all people should have access to quality medical care, if you genuinely are in financial difficulty and are unable to pay for the service we provide, please contact the practice and let us know. We do not want to deny anyone in need of medical services.

Yours sincerely,

The Management Team

*Issued on: 30/06/2023*

## **FAQ:**

We have kept the fee as low as possible and patients will be required to pay for their consultation, in full, on the day of their appointment. Your Medicare rebate will be processed during payment and will be back in your account within 24 hours.

Unfortunately, rising costs of staff wages, medical supplies, insurances and utilities, coupled with the fact that **the Government has only increased the standard consultation fee by \$4 over the last 9 years**, it is financially no longer possible to continue to provide high quality medical service whilst bulk billing all of our patients.

We pride ourselves on delivering the highest level of patient care, with minimal waiting times, and with the doctor of your choice. We know that you will have many questions, so we have tried our best to answer below:

### **1. WHAT IS BULK BILLING?**

Bulk billing means that the doctor is paid directly by the Government. The Government sets the price paid to the GP for each consultation.

### **2. DO WE BULK BILL?**

Yes, see the list above.

### **3. WHY DON'T WE BULK BILL EVERYTHING?**

The Government put a freeze on GP fees for many years. The bulk billing fees are not keeping up with inflation and the rising costs of staff wages, medical supplies, insurance and utilities etc.

The Government adds an extra payment to GP's for seeing cardholders, children and pensioners, so the GP's income is higher for these patient groups but is lower for all other patients.

We want to attract and keep the very best specialist General Practitioners and maintain a very high quality service. We have been advertising for more GP's for 2 years, without success, because GP's want to work in a mixed billing or private billing practice. We value our doctors, and think they are worth more than the Government's fee.

The team at Century Circuit Medical Centre would like to thank you for your understanding and look forward to offering you our excellent medical care for many years to come