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# RHYLYN MEDICAL SERVICES

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18/08/21

Dear Valued Patient,

The Aldinga Medical Centre is pleased to be your general practice. In order for us to continue to provide you with the quality service that we believe is essential, we will be making some changes to our fee schedule. This has not been a decision that we have come to lightly, however in order to keep our practice sustainable it has become necessary.

**From 1/9/21 we will no longer be bulk billing (direct billing) patients including Pension Card holders for their routine appointments. For Pension Card holders there will be an out of pocket expense of \$20.00 per visit that will apply to your consult. You will be asked to pay your account in full (Medicare rebate plus \$20.00), with facilities available to return the Medicare rebate to your bank account immediately. Please note that all procedures will incur a higher out of pocket charge.**

Unfortunately Medicare rebates **DO NOT** cover the cost of providing you with a safe and high quality service that we consider necessary. The fees charged by this practice have to cover all of our practice costs including employing receptionists and practice nurses, and meeting our operating expenses such as rent, medical equipment, computers and rapidly rising insurances. **Medicare rebates have failed to cover these increases.**

We will continue to direct bill Medicare (no out of pocket expense) for the following:

- Children aged 15 years old and under, Monday to Friday
- GMPs (chronic disease management plans)
- Health assessments (e.g. 45-49 years, >75 years)
- Wound reviews attended by the doctor
- DVA patients
- Government funded vaccinations

While we regret the individual impact this may have on you, it is no longer possible to continue to provide high quality, comprehensive medical care while absorbing these rising costs.

We strongly encourage you to contact your local member of parliament and the Federal Health Minister (Greg Hunt) with any feedback or comments you may have regarding Medicare rebates.

Please do not let this compromise your quality of health care. We are mindful that some patients may have extenuating circumstances which will affect their ability to afford to pay the out of pocket expense of \$20.00. Please discuss this or any other concerns or feedback you may have with our Practice Manager or your usual doctor.

Yours faithfully

LINDA CRAWFORD  
Practice Manager