

## **Announcement of Changes to Our Billing**

**From July 1st 2022**, Selby Family Clinic will be increasing our private billing fees across all appointment types. This increase has been a difficult decision for the practice but is necessary if we wish to continue operating.

### **The Value of Quality Healthcare & Why We Don't Bulk Bill**

Selby Family Clinic prides itself on providing exceptional medical care for the entire community through private billing. Unfortunately the rebate that Medicare would provide us for bulk billing services does not come close to the actual costs of providing care and the rising expenses (increased wages, utility fees and equipment costs) of running our business to these high standards.

Unlike the hospital system, Community General Practice is not subsidised by State or Federal Government. The cost of providing healthcare rises by approximately 5% each year and 2022's wage increase impacts us even further. Therefore, this has required us to increase our 2022 fees to ensure viability. Unfortunately, the Government has only increased the rebate provided to patients from Medicare by 0.8% each year for more than 10 years. Selby Family Clinic is a locally owned small business set on serving our community and increasing fees is essential for our survival as a business.

### **Price List as of July 1st 2022**

Please see below an updated price list for our most common appointment types. Full price lists can be seen on our website or by calling reception.

<b>APPOINTMENT TYPE</b>	<b>FEE</b>	<b>MEDICARE REBATE</b>	<b>GAP (Your Out-Of-Pocket Cost)</b>
<b>Standard Consult &lt;20 min (Item 23)</b>	\$80-\$89	\$39.75	\$40.25-\$49.25
<b>Long Consult 20 - 40 min (Item 36)</b>	\$135-\$178	\$76.95	\$58.05-\$101.05

### **PLEASE NOTE**

Fees are the same for both in-person and telehealth appointments.

Discounted rates may apply to Health Care Card holders, Pensioners and Children <12.

We will continue to accept DVA payments for those who hold a Department of Veterans Affairs card.

## **AMA RECOMMENDED FEES**

The Australian Medical Association (AMA) works out the true cost of running a high quality medical practice every year. It then provides a recommended schedule of fees that GP's should charge for each Medicare item number. Our fees, despite the increase, still fall below the AMA's recommended amount. We strive to keep our fees as low as possible whilst still keeping our business alive.

## **Changing How People See General Practice?**

We understand that increased out-of-pocket costs are not welcome news at this time. We believe that General Practice deserves increased funding so patients can be reimbursed at a higher rate by Medicare. If you would like to voice your opinions or campaign for a better funded, more affordable system, we encourage you to contact your local Federal Member of Parliament (details provided below).

Aaron Violi (9727 0799 or [aaron.violi@aph.gov.au](mailto:aaron.violi@aph.gov.au))

If you are facing severe financial hardship and think you may have trouble affording medical care under these new fees, we encourage you to discuss this with your GP.