

MANDURAH AND PEEL REGION: CHANGES TO MEDICARE RURAL INCENTIVES

Due to the federal government removing Mandurah's rural status for Medicare purposes, we are forced to introduce an out-of-pocket cost to previously bulk-billed patients:

Example: Standard 15 min Consultation	With Government 'Rural incentive' Assistance. (Before 1 Jan 2020)	Without Government 'Rural incentive' Assistance. (After 1 Jan 2020)
Medicare sponsored payment	\$47.85	\$38.20
Medicare immediate rebate to patient	\$0.00	\$38.20
Out of pocket amount	\$0.00	\$9.65
Payment for our service	\$47.85	\$47.85 **

** Although we would love to charge the patient only the \$9.65 as a co-payment, in terms of Medicare's split-billing rules, we are prohibited from doing so. Please bring your EFTPOS card with you and stand in solidarity with us to maintain the quality of service we are known for. (Cash payments also accepted but your rebate won't be processed by Medicare immediately).

- These changes have been introduced as we cannot absorb any further loss of turnover without compromising our quality of service.
- This decision was not made without serious consideration to the impact on our patient community and has been made in consultation with other respected general practices in the Peel region.
- Our Federal Member of Parliament has been approached on this matter. We urgently await his intervention on our behalf.
- Speak to one of our Front Desk Team Members if you are uncertain about any of these changes.
- Please read the reverse side of this pamphlet for more details.





DYNAMIC DOCTORS GROUP
1/55 Murdoch Drive, Greenfields, W.A. 6210
www.dynamicdoctors.com.au

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The Department of Health has announced that from 1st January 2020, the Peel Region will no longer be classified as rural. As a result, government incentives for bulk billing, which have been unchanged for 10 years, will now be cut by 35%. Although we have lobbied our local Member of Parliament, we have been unable to secure a committed response from the Federal Government to review the situation in Mandurah and the Peel Region.

This cut in incentives has created a significant deficit in our budget for 2020.

Although we are a private billing practice, Dynamic Doctors Group have up to now endeavoured to accommodate those patients who were historically bulk billed at our inception, as well as children under the age of 16. Sadly, we will no longer be able to maintain the status quo.

What does this mean for our bulk billed patients?

To enable Dynamic Doctors Group to maintain current staff levels and continue to offer the same quality of care by our doctors, as of 1 January 2020, we have no alternative but to levy an **out pocket cost of \$9,65 per consultation** to our previously bulk-billed patients.

What will happen at your next consultation?

- Your doctor will see you as normal, for a 15 minute standard consultation.
- You will be charged a consultation fee of **\$47.85**, which is payable on the day. Medicare regulations prohibit us from splitting your bill and charging only a co-payment.
- The best payment option is by **EFTPOS card**, linked to a Medicare account, as this will enable us to immediately process your Medicare rebate of \$38.20, directly into your account. So please remember to bring your EFTPOS card with you!
- You can pay the bill by cash, but it may then take a few days for you to receive your Medicare rebate into your nominated bank account.

Please be rest assured that we will continue to rally for the protection of the rural status for GP's and their patients in the Mandurah & the Peel Region.

We thank you for your continued support.