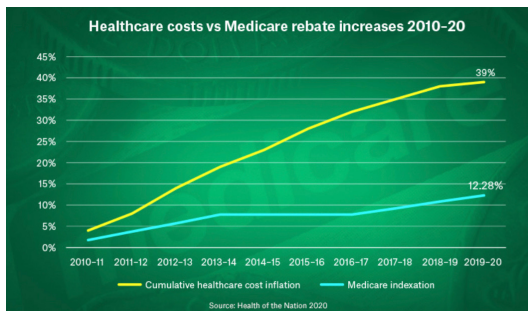




Williamstown GP
Group

Billing changes

Along with the rest of the community the last few years has seen a marked increase in the costs of operating a medical clinic. This had already been happening for many years, without any corresponding increase in the Medicare rebate, but COVID has made the situation worse.



This graph demonstrates the gap between the Medicare rebate growth compared to that of the CPI (the cost of living and the cost of running a medical practice) between 2010 and 2020 (courtesy to NewsGP). The Medicare rebate was even frozen completely for 5 years between 2014-2018.

As the medicare rebate has not kept pace with simple inflation, it makes it harder and harder to continue to offer bulk billing and as a consequence from the first of August we will be changing our billing policy.

- We will continue bulk billing all pensioners over the age of 67 and all children under 5 years of age.
- There will be an out of pocket cost of \$20 for a standard consultation, and \$40 for a long consultation for children aged 5 -16 years old and for health care card holders. Other types consults may incur a different fee accordingly.
- The billing policy will be unchanged for non health care card holders

Thank you for your understanding. We will continue to try and provide the best care that we can for you and your family.