

# Fee increases from Monday 7 July 2025. Providing you with transparency and tips to save.

From Monday 7 July 2025, our fees will be increasing to match the rising cost of living while maintaining high quality, whole-person care for our patients. While your Medicare rebates fail to match the increasing cost of good healthcare, we will try our best to help you save where possible.

#### **Key changes:**

#### **Increase in fees**

• Our new fees will be available on our website and will be displayed in our waiting room from Wednesday 2 July 2025.

## **Chronic Condition Management Plan (CCMP) and reviews**

- As highlighted in our previous newsletter, the government has made significant changes to chronic disease management items and has removed the annual GP Management Plan Item 721 and Team Care Arrangement Item 723 (worth ~\$300) which our clinic used to bulk-bill.
- The new arrangement involves having an annual GP Chronic Condition Management plan (GP CCMP), followed by reviews every 3 months and 1 day.
- The rebate for the annual GP CCMP is significantly less at \$156.55, meaning we can no longer routinely bulk-bill this item. The same applies for the reviews.
- Although the annual GP CCMP and subsequent review appointments will incur an out-of-pocket fee, eligible patients will still save approximately 50% on fees when compared with booking a standard 30-minute appointment.
- If your GP CCMP or reviews are done together with an annual health check (ie 75+ yo Health check, 45-49yo Health check or Heart check) or Mental health care plans/reviews, we may be able to bulk-bill these.
- The duration of your GP CCMP and reviews are to be determined by your GP and you, depending on the complexity of your healthcare needs.
- We highly recommend you discuss and plan your eligibility with your GP ahead at your next appointment to help you save where possible. Please note your GP does not have capacity to plan for you without an appointment.
- It is important to note that if you are registered for MyMedicare with another clinic, we will not be able to bill the items related to your GPCCMP or reviews, and you will be charged our standard consult fees.

### Why sign up for MyMedicare?

**MyMedicare** is a **voluntary patient registration** that formalises your relationship with your **usual GP and clinic**.

By registering with **The Crane GP**, you and your care team unlock **new benefits** to support better, more personalised care - ultimately improving your health outcomes.

What are the benefits?

- **✓ Higher Medicare rebates** for longer phone and video consults meaning **less out-of-pocket**
- ✓ Your GP Chronic Condition Management Plan and reviews stay with your regular GP not bulk-billed by other clinics unnecessarily
- i MyMedicare is not the same as My Health Record it doesn't involve your medical records
- i You're **not locked in** -you can still visit other clinics for acute care and claim rebates as usual
- S You can **update your MyMedicare clinic and GP anytime** for example, if you move
- **Quick and easy to register -** You can sign up for MyMedicare:
  - Via your Medicare Online Account on MyGov or your Express Plus Medicare mobile app
  - Downloading a <u>form</u> from our website, complete, sign and email to <u>cdm@thecranegp.com.au</u>
  - Completing a form at our front desk next time you attend your appointment

### **Nurse Fee**

- Our Nurse fee will increase from \$15 to \$20 to cover for increasing cost of nursing wages and to ensure we reward our dedicated nursing team accordingly for the consistently outstanding service they provide.
- Please refer to our website's Fee section for more information.
- We do not currently charge any Nurse Fee for administering FLU shots and COVID vaccine.

#### **Repeat scripts and referrals**

- We do not provide free repeat scripts and referrals because this requires time by your GP to complete.
- A non-urgent repeat script or referral request will incur a \$35 + GST fee. This is processed within 5 business days of the request.
- An urgent repeat script or referral request will incur a \$45 + GST fee. This is processed within 1 business day of the request.
- If you call up to change your request from non-urgent to urgent, you will be charged the difference in fees.
- Restrictions apply to some medications (e.g. <u>schedule 8 and schedule 4 medications</u>) where medicolegally, a consultation will be required to provide the scripts.

• Fees will be higher over the festive period when the clinic is shut between Christmas and New Year.

## There are a few things you can do to reduce your out-of-pocket cost or receive your rebate back faster.

- Please bring your EFTPOS/debit card to face-to-face appointments. This means your Medicare rebate can be immediately paid back into your bank account via EasyClaim.
- Register for Medicare Safety Nets. When you spend over a certain amount in a calendar year, Medicare will give you a higher amount back we have seen some patients reached their safety net and getting 80% of their out-of-pocket fees back. If you're part of a family or couple you can combine your costs and hit your safety net faster by registering as a family.
- Update your concession card details, including expiry date, to be eligible for our discounted rates. Please advise your details in writing via our online <u>form</u> or show our Reception Team your card next time you attend the clinic.
- Register for My Health Record. An active My Health Record will allow us to check your
  eligibility for bulk-billed items such as GP Chronic Condition Management Plans and
  Health Checks, and ensure you are eligible to receive Medicare rebates for high value
  items such as Mental Health Treatment Plans. You can choose which health
  conditions to upload onto My Health Record please discuss with your regular GP.
- Register for MyMedicare. As above.
- Renew existing <u>prescriptions</u> and <u>referrals</u> online via our website. Restrictions apply to
  ensure we do not compromise safe clinical care please read carefully before
  submitting your renewal requests.
- <u>Download our free clinic app</u> to ensure you can manage your appointments efficiently to avoid missed appointments and fees for non-attendance.

For more FAQs about our fee policy, please refer to our website.

Unintentional slips sometimes happen in a busy General Practice. We encourage you to communicate any concerns you may have about your fees by calling the clinic or completing an <u>online form</u> on our website, and we will attend promptly to resolve your concern. Please be aware that some billing issues may unfortunately be out of our control and may require you to call Medicare to resolve the issue.

If you have any further questions, please submit these on our website <u>online form</u> and we will endeavour to get back to you within 5 business days.

We appreciate your understanding and ongoing support.

Thank you,

The Crane General Practice.