

Medicare Ineligible Patients

Information for patients

Who is a Medicare Ineligible Patient?

A Medicare Ineligible Patient is someone who does not hold a valid Medicare Card, is not an Asylum Seeker or is not a visitor from a country that has a Reciprocal Health Care Agreement with Australia.

As a Medicare Ineligible Patient, it is your responsibility to ensure that you have health insurance or adequate funding to cover the cost of your health care.

Reciprocal Rights

The Australian Government has Reciprocal Health Care Agreements (RCHA) with the governments of the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Republic of Ireland, Sweden, The Netherlands, Finland, Belgium, Norway, Slovenia, Malta* and Italy*

*Medically necessary subsidised health care for a period of up to six months from the date of arrival to Australia.

Asylum Seeker or Refugee

Asylum Seekers and Refugees are provided with free medical care (including diagnostic services) in Victorian Hospitals. An Asylum Seeker is someone who has applied for refugee status and is awaiting a decision on their application.

Will I have to pay for my health care whilst at Northern Health?

Outpatient & Emergency attendances

All outpatient appointments & Emergency Department Attendances must be paid in full prior to your visit. Northern Health will provide you with a receipt that you may take to your health fund to request a claim reimbursement. All Diagnostic and Pharmacy accounts will be posted to your home address and are payable directly to the external service provider. You will need to claim these fees from your health fund provider.

The amount you will get back from your health fund will depend on your health insurance policy.

Inpatient admissions

Provided that a 100% guarantee of payment can be obtained from your nominated Australian Health Fund provider, we will invoice your bed fee and treatment costs to your nominated health fund. You will be liable and must pay any shortfall in payment between the amount charged and the amount paid by your health fund.

If you do not hold a valid Australian Health Insurance policy or a payment guarantee cannot be obtained, you will be required to pay the full cost of your admission and treatment fees.

Patients who hold Overseas Travel Insurance are required to pay the full cost of their hospital accommodation and treatment fees at the time of admission. Northern Health will provide you with a receipt that you may take to your Travel Insurance provider to request a claim reimbursement.

What information may I be asked to provide?

You may be asked to provide the following:

- Passport & Visa
- Up-front payment for service
- Contact details during your stay in Australia
- Overseas residential contact details
- Relevant health insurance policy details
- Evidence of Immigration Status (e.g. Immicard), Citizenship, Interim Medicare Card and/or a letter from a recognised Asylum Support Agency (e.g. Red Cross).

Asylum Seekers/Refugees who cannot provide evidence of eligibility at the time of admission/appointment are required to pay for all associated medical costs. Monies paid will later be reimbursed to the patient upon receipt of sufficient documentation.

Maternity Care

Refer to the Medicare Ineligible Maternity Patients brochure.

This information is general only.
Northern Health encourages you to ask questions
and get specific advice from your treating team.



If you need an Interpreter or
the support of an Aboriginal
Liaison Officer, please speak
to a staff member.



Northern Health

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Unpaid Accounts

Unpaid accounts or breach of payment arrangements will result in the escalation of your account to a debt collection agency, who by authority may report the debt to the Department of Immigration or relevant government authorities.

A General Guide to Costs

What are the costs of my care?

These rates apply from 1st July 2024. Rates are reviewed annually and subject to change without notice.

EMERGENCY ATTENDANCES

Emergency Attendance	\$650 per visit*
UCC Kilmore Attendance	\$550 per visit*
VVED Attendance	\$500 per visit*

*This fee is payable regardless of whether or not a doctor is involved in providing treatment. No refund will be given after payment is submitted. Radiology, Pathology and Pharmacy accounts will be posted to your home address and are payable directly to the external service provider. They are not included in your Emergency Attendance fee.

OUTPATIENT SERVICES	
Outpatient Consultation/Telehealth Consultation	\$400 per visit
Allied Health (Physio/Hand therapy/Community Therapy Services)	\$220 per visit
Interpreter Fee	\$170 per visit
Pharmaceutical Services	Full Cost
Medical fees including Anaesthetics	Full Cost
Radiology & Pathology services	Full Cost
Day Procedure Unit/Theatre charges	Full Cost
Prosthesis including Aid & Appliances	Full Cost
DAY/OVERNIGHT STAY	
Medical Overnight	\$2,000
Day Bed	\$1,800
Coronary Care Unit – CCU	\$3,500
Intensive Care Unit - ICU	\$5,500
Cardiac Procedure	\$2,000
Dialysis, Day Oncology & Haematology	\$1,985
Maternity Bed	\$3,150
Special Care Nursery	\$3,000
Palliative Care	\$1,765
Rehab	\$1,800
Hospital in the Home	\$650**

**Discounts may apply. Please discuss options with your Patient Liaison Officer.

How can I pay for my account?

Payments can be made by BPAY, Credit Card, Cash, Money Order or Cheque at our Cashiers' Office. Details for BPAY payments can be found on the bottom of your invoice. When paying for your Emergency Department Fee at the window in ED, EFTPOS is the only method of payment. American Express is not available.

The Northern Hospital, 185 Cooper Street, Epping, VIC 3076 Phone: (03) 8405 8570

Cheque & money orders can be posted to:

Patient Accounts
Locked Bag 2005
SOMERTON DC VIC 3062

Further Information:

Please contact Revenue Services

Phone: (03) 8405 2603

Email: MIP@nh.org.au

Northern Health welcomes your questions. Ask us:

**What is
my main
concern?**

**What do
I need
to do?**

**Why is it
important
for me to
do this?**

You can ask questions when:

- You see a doctor, nurse or other health care provider
- You prepare for a medical test or procedure
- You receive medication

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