

Template Letter to Patients About 10 Minute Consultations

From 19 January 2015, your Medicare rebate for a standard consultation that lasts less than 10 minutes will be reduced by \$20.10 from \$37.05 to \$16.95.

The Government has made this cut. It is not a decision made by this practice.

The quality of the care we provide you has not changed.

Given the significant reduction in your Medicare rebate, this practice may not be able to continue to bulk bill you for standard consultations.

The reality is that Medicare rebates do not cover the cost of providing you with a safe and high quality service. The fees charged by this practice have to cover all of our practice costs including employing receptionists and practice nurses, and meeting our operating expenses such as rent, medical equipment, electricity, computers and insurance.

For these reasons, this practice is not able to absorb the cut made by the Government and will have to pass it on to you.

Please understand, we have not changed our fee. The Government has changed your rebate.

From 19 January 2015, if your standard consultation with one of our doctors has been less than 10 minutes you will need to pay the receptionist [*insert your own value* e.g. \$37.05] in total. We will be able to lodge your claim for your Medicare rebate electronically. Please ensure you have provided Medicare with your bank account details as this is the quickest and most convenient way to receive your rebate.

If you have extenuating circumstances please discuss these with the doctor.

If you wish to let the Government know that the Medicare rebate is insufficient to assist you in meeting the cost of your medical care, please contact the Minister for Health:

The Hon Sussan Ley MP
Minister for Health
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
Tel: (02) 6277 7220
Email: Sussan.Ley.MP@aph.gov.au