



SUNSHINE COAST ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC

BILLING

In 1985 the Commonwealth Government introduced Medicare as a safety net for medical care in Australia. Although there is a yearly increase in the Medicare Schedule Fee, these Government-determined fees have not increased at the same rate as the Consumer Price Index (CPI) since 1985. Therefore, patients now find themselves in the situation of having to pay a 'gap' to cover medical services provided to them by Surgeons and other Medical Providers.

The Australian Medical Association (AMA) issues its own schedule of fees. These fees are simply the Commonwealth Government schedule of fees from 1985, increased to keep pace with inflation. Your doctor may charge according to this schedule of fees.

Medicare will rebate 75% of the schedule fee for an in-patient (in hospital) service or treatment, and 85% of the schedule fee for out-patient (out of hospital) treatment. Your doctor will generally charge more than the Medicare rebate, and therefore you will be responsible for any charges over and above this rebate. Each Health Fund has its own Schedule of Fees which vary widely from fund to fund and any out of pocket expense will be based on what Health Fund you have joined.

It is best to discuss costs before treatment rather than afterwards. We will provide an estimate of the surgical fees that may apply. This can only be an estimate because the actual treatment may differ from the proposed treatment. If further treatment is required because of complications or if the patient chooses another surgical option then extra costs are likely to apply. There will be a Medicare and/or Health Fund rebate for most surgical procedures.

You may also receive an account from the Hospital, the Anaesthetist, Radiology, Pharmacy, or Physiotherapy. There may also be costs for rehabilitation devices such as knee braces or crutches.

Once you have seen your Surgeon and you have made the decision to have surgery, you can contact your Surgeon's office to arrange a quote. Unfortunately, until you have a consultation, we are unable to provide a quote for surgery as there are many variables which may affect the costs.

At no time will our reception staff be able to determine what operation you will require nor will they be able to decide whether gap cover will apply. This is a decision that your Surgeon will make.