



# Patient Information

## Our Fees for Service

**Queensland X-Ray is staffed by some of the finest medical imaging staff in the State. By working as a co-ordinated team we will provide you with diagnostic accuracy and the highest standard of patient care.**

Our aim is to provide patients with a high quality diagnostic imaging service in a safe, comfortable and caring environment. We would like to explain the basis for our patient accounts and how Medicare contributes towards the cost of patients examinations.

### How Medicare works

The Medicare subsidy is based on the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS). For most examinations there is an MBS "Schedule Fee" which is set by the Federal Government. This fee is then used as the basis to calculate the Medicare Rebate (subsidy) paid on behalf of individual patients.

For patients not currently admitted to hospital, the Medicare Rebate is 85% of the Government Medicare Benefits Schedule Fee. For patients who are admitted to hospital, the Medicare Rebate is 85% of the Schedule Fee.

Unfortunately, since Medicare was introduced in 1985, the Schedule Fees have not been fully indexed and have consistently fallen behind the inflation rate (CPI) and average weekly earnings increases. The costs of providing medical services have risen faster than inflation and average weekly earnings increases. As a consequence, it is not possible to bulk bill all patients and continue to provide high quality imaging services.

We will not compromise the quality of our equipment or the training of our staff, and therefore Queensland X-Ray may charge patients a fee which is above the Medicare Rebate.

We do understand that some people in our community are financially disadvantaged. In recognition of this it is Queensland X-Ray's policy to "bulk-bill" Government aged pensioners and health care card holders for most examinations. We do not generally bulk-bill for examinations performed after hours or on weekends. It is advisable that patients consult the practice they are attending for the current fees and billing policy.

If a patient is admitted to hospital and is privately insured, the Federal Government allows their private health fund to pay a further portion of their private accounts. The Federal Government prohibits private health funds from paying for X-Ray services to patients not admitted to hospital.

The Medicare Benefits Schedule rules and regulations set by the Federal Government are very complex and there are numerous exceptions to the above principles. In particular, there are some examinations for which no rebate is paid.

We would appreciate full payment of patient accounts on the day of examination. Patients may then claim back the relevant rebate from Medicare. If patients have any questions regarding their account or information contained in this brochure, please approach our reception staff directly.

### Administration

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