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## Initial Consultation Patient Information

### **On Your First Visit:**

You will be asked to provide some personal details including contact phone numbers. Medicare and health fund card details are also helpful.

**A referral letter** from your local doctor or specialist is required to enable you to claim Medicare rebates. Your doctor may have already sent a letter of referral but please check. Referrals from your general practitioner are normally valid for 12 months but may be endorsed as "indefinite". Specialist referrals are valid only for 3 months.

Bring a list of current medications, allergies and important medical events with you.

**Your consultation** with the Specialist should leave you satisfied with the purpose of your referral. The problem for which you have been referred will be diagnosed if possible and the recommended management discussed with you.

If any questions arise regarding your consultation or planned management please do not hesitate to ring the office and a further appointment may be arranged accordingly to answer these questions. It is important that you, the patient, fully understand the purpose of recommended treatment and the ramifications of the treatment. Your consultation will also discuss complications or risks and you should understand these.

### **Will I need tests?**

Any investigation or blood tests required will be organised at this first visit and you will receive another appointment to discuss the results.

### **Will I need an operation?**

Many vascular conditions do not require surgery for treatment and treatment is often optional (elective). Mr Milne will discuss surgery or a suitable alternative treatment, if required, and information sheets are available for you to take away and read. It is important that you understand the purpose and possible complications of any treatment before consenting to any surgery/procedures. A further appointment will be made for you if you have additional queries.

After your consultation you will receive an account from this Office. Age Pensioners and/or "Veterans" patients will be billed at the relevant rates if you bring entitlement card.

### **Privacy Requirements?**

After your consultation a letter is normally sent to your Local Doctor and related Specialists. Please let the practice know if there are special requirements. The Privacy policy of this practice is available for inspection.