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**Vascular &  
Endovascular Surgeon**

Dear Patient,

### **Medical Fees / Surgery Out-of-Pocket Costs**

Medicare rebates today do not cover the full cost of providing you with medical care. This is because the rate at which successive governments have indexed Medicare Schedule fees has been substantially lower than increases in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and Average Weekly Earnings.

In 2014 -2015 budget the government put a 24 month freeze on Medicare rebates. This freeze will not be lifted until July 2017.

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, practice nurses and meeting our operating expenses such as rent, medical equipment, computers and insurance.

For these reasons, our practice does not bulk bill patients and you will need to pay a gap for your consultations and surgery. Our practice charges below the Australian Medical Association recommended fees however even if you have private health insurance, you may still be out of pocket.

Quotes will be provided to you accordingly - prior to your procedure.

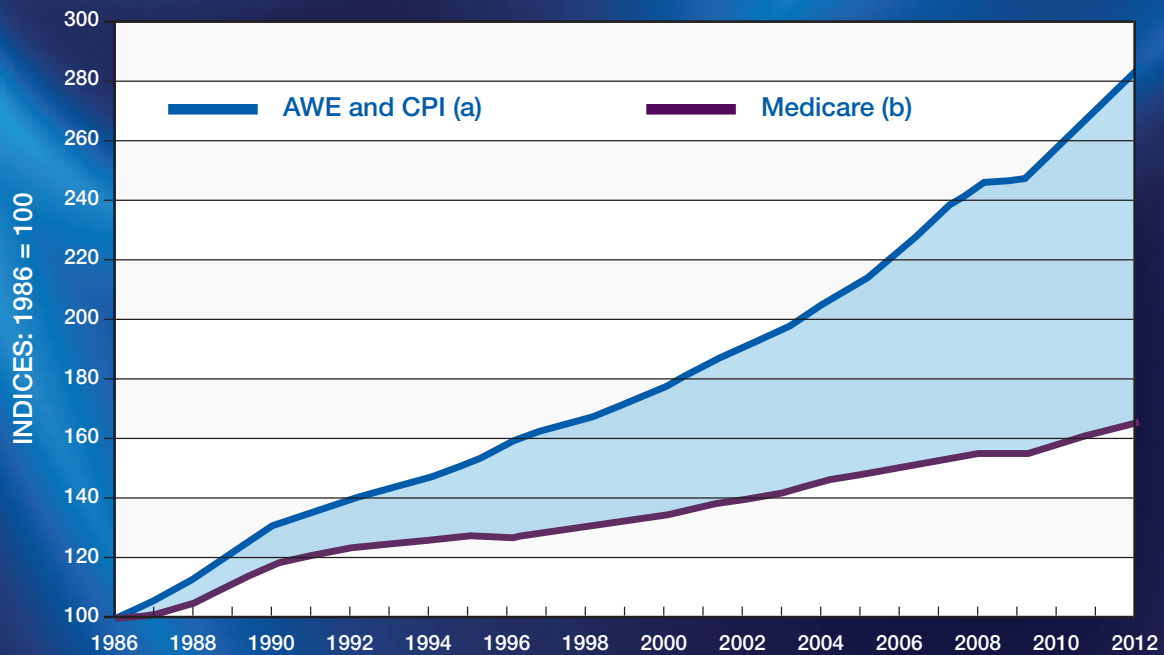
If you wish to let the Government know that the Medicare rebate is insufficient to assist you in meeting the cost of your medical care, please contact your local Member of Parliament at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/members/mi-alpha.asp> and/or the **Minister for Health and Ageing**.

If you have any questions about your fees, please do not hesitate to contact our office on (03) 9509-9055.

**Practice Manager**  
Kate Park

# GAPS

## Why is there a gap?



- (a) Index comprising average weekly earnings and consumer price index (70:30) reflecting the average cost structures in medical practices.  
b) Index of Medicare fees as determined by the Commonwealth Government.

Government's indexation of Medicare rebates has not kept pace with the rising cost of practice. On average AWE and CPI increase by 3.3% per year to cover the rising costs of practice. Medicare rebates only increase by 2.1% per year.

The difference is a decrease in the value of your rebate.  
Making your rebate worth less every year.

**Concerned? Talk to your local Federal MP.**



**AMA**

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