

December 2008

Dear Patients,

It has come to light that there has been some general confusion in the local community regarding the billing policies of the Doctors in our practice. As it is our aim to provide quality medical care and continually improve our services to you we have decided to formulate a total practice billing policy to be introduced on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2009.

As of this date, all Medicare eligible consultations for *local* Centrelink Concession-card Holders and children (up to completing school) will be bulk-billed upon presentation of your current medicare card and valid concession card (where applicable).

The fees for all *local* patients outside these guidelines will be billed as follows:

<b>Consultation Description</b>		<b>Fee</b>	<b>Medicare Rebate</b>	<b>Out of Pocket Expense</b>
Item 3	Level A – Short consultation	\$25	\$15.35	\$ 9.65
Item 23	Level B - Standard consultation	\$52	\$33.55	\$18.45
Item 36	Level C - Extended consultation	\$85	\$63.75	\$21.25
Item 44	Level D - Comprehensive consultation	\$120	\$93.80	\$26.20

We will continue to bulk-bill any additional medicare eligible procedures eg. ECG's. These fees are slightly increased on Sundays and Public Holidays to coincide with the higher medicare rebate applicable for these days.

We would like to request that the full fee payment be made at the time of consultation and to assist with this we are happy to announce the introduction of "Patient On-The-Spot Claiming". This means that the practice lodges your claim via a secure internet connection with Medicare Australia. If you have given your cheque or savings bank account details to Medicare, your medicare rebate will be paid directly into that account within two to three working days. You can still have the option of receiving a medicare rebate cheque posted to your address within three to four weeks, go to your local Medicare office or use any of the other claiming options available.

We look forward to continuing to provide quality medical care to all of you.

Doctors and Staff of  
Port Village Medical Centres