



## Pregnancy (Shared Care) Consultation Fees

The out-of-pocket fees for consultations during your pregnancy and following the birth of your baby are higher than for regular appointments. This is because the Medicare rebate for pregnancy care is less than for regular appointments.

The Medicare system is old fashioned and sexist in that it often de-prioritises rebates for female-specific healthcare.

### What Are the Fees for Pregnancy and Post-Pregnancy Consultations?

The table below compares the costs of 30-minute pregnancy consultations with regular appointments of the same duration.

	Duration	Medicare rebate	Consult fee	Out of pocket
<b>REGULAR APPOINTMENTS</b>				
<b>Ordinary hours</b> Mon – Fri, 8.30am – 5.30pm	30 mins	\$75.75	\$131.75	\$56
<b>After hours</b> Mon – Fri after 5.30pm Sat until 1pm	30 mins	\$75.75	\$142.75	\$67
<b>PREGNANCY (SHARED CARE) CONSULTATIONS</b>				
<b>Ordinary hours</b> Mon – Fri, 8.30am – 5.30pm	Routine visit 30 mins	\$41.70	\$112.70	\$71
<b>After hours</b> Mon – Fri after 5.30pm Sat all day	Routine visit 30 mins	\$41.70	\$123.70	\$82

## **Why Are Pregnancy Consult Fees Higher?**

The applicable Medicare rebate impacts the fee for a pregnancy consultation. Regardless of whether you spend five minutes or one hour with your GP, the rebate remains the same.

This is in stark contrast to rebates for regular appointments, increasing relative to the time spent with a doctor.

We insist on 30-minute pregnancy consultations. This allows us to provide high-quality care, address your needs, and answer your questions.

We've decided to only charge a \$15 higher out-of-pocket fee. We feel this slightly higher fee is fair as it's less than half of the reduced Medicare rebate applicable to pregnancy care. Some other GP clinics charge their pregnancy patients the entire rebate difference of \$33.20.

What's more, our GPs who provide pregnancy care (shared care) have all done extra training to qualify to practise pregnancy management. They also continually update their training.

## **What Are the Alternatives for Cheaper Pregnancy Care?**

There are other options available to you for cheaper pregnancy management. These include doing all your pregnancy visits at a hospital, such as the Royal Women's Hospital, or undertaking shared care with a midwife.

If you have any further questions about fees, please speak with your GP.