DOCTORS OF SOUTH MELBOURNE

Pregnancy (Shared Care) Consultation Fees

Out-of-pocket costs for pregnancy and post-pregnancy consultations are higher than regular appointments.

Unfortunately, this reflects long-standing gaps in the Medicare rebate system, which often undervalues essential, female-specific healthcare.

What are the Fees for Pregnancy and Post-Pregnancy Consultations?

The table below summarises fees for the pregnancy appointments at Doctors of South Melbourne.

	Duration	Consult fee	Medicare rebate	Out of pocket
Pregnancy (Shared Care) Consultations				
Ordinary hours Mon-Fri, 8.30 am-5.30pm	30 mins	$220.00	$48.00	$172.00
After hours Mon-Fri after 5.30pm, Sat, Sun & public holidays	30 mins	$245.00	$48.00	$197.00
28-Week Pregnancy Planning & Management				
Ordinary hours	30 mins	$317.15	$145.15	$172.00
After hours	30 mins	$342.15	$145.15	$197.00
6-Week Postnatal Mother Check-up				
Ordinary hours	30 mins	$317.15	$145.15	$172.00
After hours	30 mins	$342.15	$145.15	$197.00

Why are Pregnancy Consult Fees Higher?

The Medicare system hasn't kept pace with the time and complexity involved in pregnancy-related care.

As a result, pregnancy rebates are **approximately half** of those for comparable non-pregnancy/standard GP appointments, even when the former takes longer or requires more specialised support.

Medicare offers a flat rebate for pregnancy-related consultations, whether your appointment lasts five minutes or an hour, the rebate stays the same.

In contrast, standard GP appointment rebates increase with the duration of the appointment.

At Doctors of South Melbourne, the GPs allocate 30 minutes for all pregnancy and postnatal consultations to ensure they can provide comprehensive care, address you and your baby's needs and answer all your questions.

Of note, we charge for pregnancy consults at less than double the 15-minute standard consult rate, despite taking 30 minutes.

What's more, the doctors at the clinic who provide pregnancy care (shared care) have all undergone extra training to qualify to practise pregnancy management.

Looking for Cheaper Alternatives?

If you're after more affordable options, you could consider:

- Attending all your pregnancy visits at a public hospital, like The Royal Women's Hospital
- Exploring shared care with a midwife

If you have questions about what's right for you or want to discuss your options further, please speak with your GP.