



Understanding how Medicare Safety Net can benefit you:

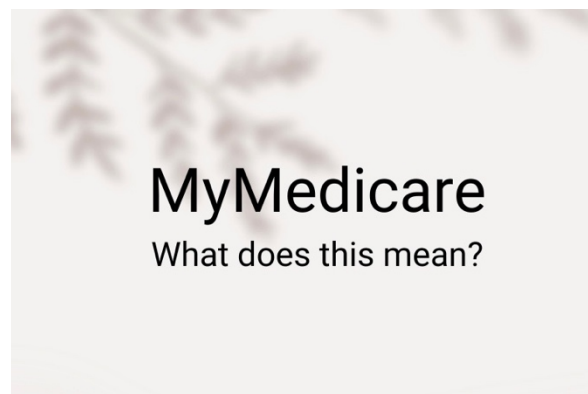
We want to share some important information about the Medicare Safety Net, a valuable system designed by the Australian Government to help manage your out-of-hospital medical expenses and make it more affordable for you and your family.

Once you have spent up to a certain amount on medical appointments or tests in a calendar year, you'll get more money back from the Medicare for your out-of-pocket expenses. This includes visits to your GP or a specialist, services in private clinics, private emergency department, allied health that has an MBS item number and many pathology and diagnostic imaging tests. Paying your account in full will ensure you reach your Medicare Safety Net sooner.

Remember families must register and confirm Medicare Safety Net each year as everyone's costs are combined, helping you reach the threshold sooner and start claiming higher benefits more quickly.

For more information, please visit [Medicare Safety Nets - Services Australia](#) or ask our friendly reception staff about how to register.

MyMedicare:



The government has recently announced the introduction of **MyMedicare**, a new voluntary patient registration system. Under this system, patients will need to formally register with a General Practice to maximize their entitlements under Medicare. As these changes are introduced in stages, it is important to be prepared and stay informed. The introduction of voluntary patient registration means that you will need to choose your preferred GP Practice. This choice will enable you to access the maximum benefits available under the new Medicare framework. It is worth noting that voluntary registration does not restrict you from using other Practices, but it is likely that future government funding for patients will be tied to their registered Practice.

At Magill Family Practice we will be closely monitoring the evolving situation and providing you with regular updates as more information becomes available. Please continue to follow us on Facebook, visit our website, and stay subscribed to our email newsletters to receive

timely updates and guidance regarding the new Medicare changes. Your proactive engagement will ensure a smooth transition and continued access to quality medical care. As more information becomes available, we will keep you informed about the registration process. Be ready to take action and get registered when the time comes. Your choice of Practice for your medical care will be important, as it may provide priority for registration if voluntary registration becomes oversubscribed.

Changes for Respiratory Patients:

Thank you to all for respecting our clinic policies to keep everyone safe during the COVID-19 pandemic and the Flu season. It is still very important that anyone with respiratory symptoms including sore throat, running nose, loss of taste or smell, fever, sore ears or sinus pain, DO NOT ENTER the clinic as we have a duty to protect other vulnerable patients in the waiting room.



Respiratory patients will be able to see their doctors inside the clinic providing they have evidence of a negative RAT taken on the same day. Patients with respiratory conditions should book their appointments by phone, not online. They should ring to inform clinic staff upon arrival to their appointments and to remain waiting in the car until instructed to come into the clinic by their doctor. They are required to wear a mask upon entering the clinic building.

Masks are now not mandatory inside the waiting room. However, they are still recommended for vulnerable individuals.

Telehealth appointments are still available for patients who are too unwell to come into the clinic.

COVID Vaccine:

Magill Family Practice will start providing COVID vaccination boosters commencing October 2023.

It is important to remember COVID-19 is still with us. ATAGI recommends all the adults age 18 years or over can get a booster if it has been 6 months or longer since their last COVID-19 booster or confirmed infection (whichever is most recent) for additional protection against severe illness from COVID-19.

Fee Information:

Due to Medicare being unable to process and provide cheques in a timely manner, **all accounts must be paid in full on the day, commencing Oct 1.** Accounts not paid in full will incur an additional payment.

In most instances we will be able to instantaneously refund your rebate onto your savings or debit card (not credit card). Alternatively, Medicare will deposit the rebate to your designated bank account within 2 working days.

Payment in full will also assist in reaching the Medicare Safety Net sooner.

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