

December 2015

## FACT SHEET 01

### The Government's cuts to Medicare rebates – how patients will pay the cost.

General patients who were previously bulk billed can expect to pay gaps of at least the reduction in their rebate. In addition, Medicare systems rules do not currently support patients paying just the gap up front, which means that these patients will have to pay the full cost of the service upfront as well as the out-of-pocket costs.

**Getting diagnosed often requires several DI services.** For example, ADIA estimates significant upfront and out of pocket costs for the following conditions:

|                      | Liver cancer       | Thyroid cancer     | Rheumatoid arthritis | Liver metastasis     | Breast cancer    | Melanoma             |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Upfront</b>       | \$706 –<br>\$1,191 | \$977 –<br>\$1,366 | \$288 –<br>\$567     | \$1,708 –<br>\$2,262 | \$282 –<br>\$554 | \$4,012 –<br>\$4,785 |
| <b>Out of pocket</b> | \$94 –<br>\$391    | \$103 –<br>\$492   | \$30 –<br>\$309      | \$180 –<br>\$733     | \$29 –<br>\$302  | \$348 –<br>\$1,120   |

**Increased cost of diagnostic imaging services**

|   | 58503<br>X-Ray – chest | 55036<br>Ultrasound –<br>abdomen | 55706<br>Ultrasound –<br>pregnancy | 56301<br>CT – chest | 59300<br>Diagnostic<br>mammography | 61553<br>PET –<br>melanoma | 63001<br>MRI – head |
|---|------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Current bulk billed patient rebate                      | \$44.80                | \$105.75                         | \$95.00                            | \$280.25            | \$85.05                            | \$949.05                   | \$403.20            |
| New patient rebate                                      | \$40.10                | \$97.65                          | \$85.00                            | \$250.75            | \$76.10                            | \$919.50                   | \$342.75            |
| Cut   | <b>↓ \$4.70</b>        | <b>↓ \$8.10</b>                  | <b>↓ \$10.00</b>                   | <b>↓ \$29.50</b>    | <b>↓ \$8.95</b>                    | <b>↓ \$29.55</b>           | <b>↓ \$60.45</b>    |
| Expected minimum patient gap                            | \$4.70                 | \$8.10                           | \$10.00                            | \$29.50             | \$8.95                             | \$29.55                    | \$60.45             |
| <b>Expected patient gap range based on average gaps</b> | <b>\$5 – \$52</b>      | <b>\$8 – \$101</b>               | <b>\$10 – \$101</b>                | <b>\$30 – \$145</b> | <b>\$9 + *</b>                     | <b>\$30 + *</b>            | <b>\$60 – \$173</b> |

\*Average patient gap data not available

If the practice charges a gap, the full fee must be paid upfront and could range as follows:

|  |                    |                      |                     |                      |               |                |                      |
|--|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------------|
| <b>Range in upfront cost paid by patient</b> | <b>\$45 – \$93</b> | <b>\$106 – \$199</b> | <b>\$95 – \$186</b> | <b>\$280 – \$396</b> | <b>\$85 +</b> | <b>\$949 +</b> | <b>\$403 – \$516</b> |
|--|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------------|

For further information on the analysis behind these figures, please contact Chris Kane at ADIA at [chris.kane@adia.asn.au](mailto:chris.kane@adia.asn.au).