

# WIDENING THE GAP - FACT SHEET 02

The Government's cuts to Medicare rebates - **how patients will pay the cost.**

Under the Government's planned changes general patients, who were previously bulk billed, can expect to pay gaps of at least the reduction in their rebate.

Additionally, under the rules for Medicare, patients can't expect to pay just the gap upfront and leave it for the practice to claim the rebate. They will pay the full cost of the service upfront - possibly hundreds of dollars - and then apply for their rebate.

To diagnose and monitor treatment of a wide range of conditions, multiple diagnostic imaging services are required. The new costs will keep piling up and patient conditions will go undiagnosed.

## Melanoma

	Rebate cut	Upfront cost	Out of pocket
PET - malignant melanoma	\$30	\$949 - \$1,140	\$30 - \$220
MRI - brain	\$60	\$403 - \$516	\$60 - \$173
CT - chest, abdomen and pelvis (follow-up after three months)	\$52	\$532 - \$626	\$52 - \$145
CT - chest, abdomen and pelvis (every six months for two years)	\$206	\$2,128 - \$2,504	\$206 - \$582
	<b>\$348</b>	<b>\$4,012 - \$4,785</b>	<b>\$348 - \$1,120</b>

## Liver Cancer

	Rebate cut	Upfront cost	Out of pocket
Ultrasound - abdomen	\$11	\$105 - \$196	\$11 - \$101
CT - upper abdomen	\$36	\$342 - \$451	\$36 - \$145
CT-guided biopsy	\$47	\$447 - \$545	\$47 - \$145
	<b>\$94</b>	<b>\$894 - \$1,191</b>	<b>\$94 - \$391</b>

## Thyroid cancer

	Rebate cut	Upfront cost	Out of pocket
Ultrasound - thyroid	\$11	\$104 - \$194	\$11 - \$101
Ultrasound-guided biopsy	\$11	\$104 - \$194	\$11 - \$101
CT - head	\$25	\$238 - \$358	\$25 - \$145
CT - chest, abdomen, pelvis	\$52	\$532 - \$626	\$52 - \$145
	<b>\$99</b>	<b>\$978 - \$1,372</b>	<b>\$99 - \$492</b>

## Rheumatoid arthritis

	Rebate cut	Upfront cost	Out of pocket
X-Ray - right foot	\$4	\$41 - \$89	\$4 - \$52
X-Ray - left foot	\$4	\$41 - \$89	\$4 - \$52
X-Ray - right hand and wrist	\$5	\$51 - \$98	\$5 - \$52
X-Ray - left hand and wrist	\$5	\$51 - \$98	\$5 - \$52
Ultrasound - ankle	\$11	\$104 - \$194	\$11 - \$101
	<b>\$30</b>	<b>\$289 - \$567</b>	<b>\$30 - \$309</b>

## Liver metastasis (secondary liver cancer)

	Rebate cut	Upfront cost	Out of pocket
X-Ray - chest	\$5	\$45 - \$92	\$5 - \$52
Ultrasound - upper abdomen	\$11	\$105 - \$196	\$11 - \$101
CT - upper abdomen	\$36	\$342 - \$451	\$36 - \$145
CT - head	\$25	\$238 - \$358	\$25 - \$145
CT - chest, abdomen and pelvis	\$52	\$532 - \$626	\$52 - \$145
CT-guided biopsy	\$47	\$447 - \$545	\$47 - \$145
	<b>\$176</b>	<b>\$1,709 - \$2,268</b>	<b>\$176 - \$733</b>

## Breast cancer

	Rebate cut	Upfront cost	Out of pocket
Diagnostic mammography	\$9	\$85 - \$176	\$9 - \$100
Ultrasound - breast	\$10	\$93 - \$185	\$10 - \$101
Ultrasound-guided biopsy	\$11	\$104 - \$194	\$11 - 101
	<b>\$30</b>	<b>\$282 - \$554</b>	<b>\$30 - \$302</b>