

Information for Medicare Ineligible Patients – Maternity

Acute Care
SERVICES



As a Medicare ineligible patient, it is your responsibility to ensure that you have health insurance cover or adequate money to cover the cost of your health care. As a Medicare ineligible patient you will be required to pay upfront for all the costs of your maternity care and the cost of your baby's care. This includes all outpatient visits as well as inpatient care and accommodation.

A Medicare ineligible person is any visitor to Australia who does not hold a valid Medicare card, or does not fall under one of the two classifications below:

- 1. Reciprocal Rights:** The Australian Government has Reciprocal Health Care Agreements with the governments of the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Republic of Ireland, Sweden, The Netherlands, Finland, Belgium, Norway, Slovenia, Malta and Italy. Visitors from Malta & Italy are covered for Medicare for a period of six months from date of arrival in Australia.
- 2. Asylum Seekers and Refugees:** Asylum Seekers and Refugees are provided with free medical care (including diagnostic services) in Victorian hospitals. You will need to produce appropriate documents confirming your status from the Department of Immigration and Citizenship or a recognised asylum support agency, such as the Red Cross. If documents are not produced, you will be expected to pay as an uninsured patient.

Insured Patients: If you have private health insurance you must check with your health fund to ensure you are covered for pregnancy (obstetric) care and that your baby will be covered for neonatal care.

The Colac Area Health Private Patients – No Gaps Policy does not relate to ineligible Medicare patients. As such, you will be liable for payment of any fees not covered by your private health insurance.

Uninsured Patients: If you are a Medicare ineligible person and are uninsured for pregnancy (obstetric) care you will be required to pay an upfront amount of \$12,000 prior to your first maternity care appointment.

The fee of \$12,000 covers your admission for the cost of:

- Birthing suite (normal delivery)
- Two days stay in a private room (option for partner to stay overnight)
- Four ante-natal midwifery visits
- One post-natal home visit following discharge
- Midwifery care
- Obstetrics practitioner care

Additional Costs: You will be invoiced separately if you require the following services during your admission:

- \$400 – Epidural
- \$5,000 – Theatre for Caesarean
- \$12,200 – Air Ambulance
- \$2,000 – Road Ambulance
- \$400 – Lactation Consultant
- \$200 – Interpreter (per hour)

You will be required to provide the following information:

- Your passport
- Contact information during your stay in Australia.
- Health insurance policy details (if any)
- Asylum Seeker and Refugee documentation (if any)

More information: Please contact our Finance Department on (03) 5232 5100