

Medicare Ineligible Maternity Patients

Information for patients and families

Who is a Medicare Ineligible Patient?

A Medicare Ineligible Patient is someone who does not hold a valid Medicare Card, is not an Asylum Seeker or is not a visitor from a country that has a Reciprocal Health Care Agreement with Australia.

As a Medicare Ineligible Patient, it is your responsibility to ensure that you have health insurance or adequate funding to cover the cost of both you and your baby's health care.

Reciprocal Rights

The Australian Government has Reciprocal Health Care Agreements (RCHA) with the governments of the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Republic of Ireland, Sweden, The Netherlands, Finland, Belgium, Norway, Slovenia, Malta *and Italy*. (*Medically necessary subsidised health care for a period of up to six months from the date of arrival to Australia).

Asylum Seeker or Refugee

Asylum Seekers and Refugees are provided with free medical care (including diagnostic services) in Victorian Hospitals. An Asylum Seeker is someone who has applied for refugee status and is awaiting a decision on their application.

Will I have to pay for my health care whilst at Northern Health?

Outpatient & Emergency attendances

All outpatient appointments must be paid in full at the cashiers' office prior to your visit. Northern Health will provide you with a receipt that you may take to your health fund to request a claim reimbursement. The amount you will get back from your health fund will depend on your health insurance policy.

Inpatient admissions

Provided that a 100% guarantee of payment can be obtained from your nominated Australian Health Fund provider, we will invoice your bed fee and treatment costs to your nominated health fund. You will be liable and must pay any shortfall in payment between the amount charged and the amount paid by your health fund.

If you do not hold a valid Australian Health Insurance policy or whereby a payment guarantee cannot be obtained, you will be required to pay the full cost of your admission and treatment fees.

Patients who hold Overseas Travel Insurance are required to pay the full cost of their hospital accommodation and treatment fees at the time of admission. Northern Health will provide you with a receipt that you may take to your Travel Insurance provider to request a claim reimbursement.

What information may I be asked to provide?

You may be asked to provide the following:

- Passport & Visa
- Up-front payment for service
- Contact details during your stay in Australia
- Overseas residential contact details
- Relevant health insurance policy details
- Evidence of Immigration Status (e.g. Immicard), Citizenship, Interim Medicare Card and/or a letter from a recognised Asylum Support Agency (e.g. Red Cross).

Asylum Seekers/Refugees who cannot provide evidence of eligibility at the time of admission/appointment are required to pay for all associated medical costs. Monies paid will later be reimbursed to the patient upon receipt of sufficient documentation.

Uninsured for Pregnancy Care

If you are uninsured for pregnancy care, Northern Health offer a maternity package that includes all pregnancy related medical, emergency, outpatient, theatre and domiciliary services for \$16,500.*

*This package does not include the cost for anaesthetics, radiology, pathology, pharmaceutical or aids & appliances products/services or charges for your baby's admission to Special Care Nursery.

*To discuss how you may be eligible for a 10% discount contact Revenue Services, Northern Hospital.

Unpaid Accounts

Unpaid accounts or breach of payment arrangements will result in the escalation of your account to a debt collection agency, who by authority may report the debt to the Department of Immigration or relevant government authorities.

A General Guide to Maternity Costs

What are the costs of my care?

UPFRONT COSTS – payments to be made at the time of attendance or purchase at the cashier's office

Emergency Attendance	\$500 per visit
Outpatient Consultation	\$350 per visit
Pharmaceuticals	Full Cost
Prosthesis	Full Cost

MATERNITY PACKAGE (UNINSURED) – Payment to be made in full prior to the estimated date of confinement

Maternity Package	\$16,500*
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* 10% discount may apply

ADMISSIONS/DAY STAY – Where a valid Health Insurance Payment Guarantee is sanctioned, we will send the invoice to your health fund on your behalf

Obstetric Overnight Stay (Mother)	\$2,500 per night
Special Care Nursery/General Ward Admission (Baby)	\$2,400 per night
Day Admission	\$1,500 per day
Doctor & Theatre Fees	Full Cost

ADDITIONAL CHARGES – Invoices will be levied and are payable to the external service providers

Anaesthetics	Full Cost
Radiology	Full Cost
Pathology	Full Cost

How can I pay for my account?

Payments can be made by BPAY, Credit Card, Cash, Money Order or Cheque at our Cashiers' Office. Details for BPAY payments can be found on the bottom of your invoice.

Cheque & Money orders can be posted to:

Patient Accounts - Locked Bag 2005 SOMERTON DC VIC 3076

Further Information:

Please contact Revenue Services Ph: (03) 8405 2603

Email: mip@nh.org.au

This information is general only.
Northern Health encourages you to ask questions
and get specific advice from your treating team.



If you need an Interpreter or
the support of an Aboriginal
Liaison Officer, please speak
to a staff member.



Northern Health

www.nh.org.au