



Decide if your doctor's fees offer good value

Patients treated in a public hospital as a public patient pay no medical treatment costs.

Doctors outside the public health system operate as private businesses. They set their own fees.

Many doctors try to keep their patients' out of pocket costs as low as possible after any Medicare or insurance rebate. They take their patients' financial circumstances into account.

Sometimes it's reasonable for a doctor to charge more. For example, some doctors might have extensive experience, skills or knowledge. Treatment can sometimes cost more if you have had previous treatments or other complicating conditions.

However, paying more for a service doesn't always mean you'll get better quality care. Some of the most experienced doctors charge modest fees.

Treatment costs may also vary due to differences between health insurance policies. Whether you are entitled to [Medicare Safety Net payments](#) might also affect your costs.

Your doctor should be willing to discuss their fees and demonstrate the costs are reasonable.

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR DOCTOR

This checklist of questions you can ask your doctor may help you decide if their fees represent good value.

- Have you done further specialised training beyond what is needed for your specialist qualification?
- What is your experience in providing this treatment or clinical assessment?
- I'd like to know about your results. How do you decide if a treatment is successful?
- Do you report your results to any quality monitoring registries or hospital peer review processes?
- Do you help educate or train other doctors?
- Have you done any research or innovation in your field?