



Department of Women and Children's Health

INFORMED FINANCIAL CONSENT FOR NEONATAL CONSULTATION

Norwest Private is supported by a group of experienced, gentle and skilled specialist Paediatricians who are accredited for their expertise. The purpose of this document is to advise you of the cost of Paediatric consultation during your newborn infant's time in hospital. Please read the following information carefully.

We understand it is important and reassuring to have transparency of fees for paediatric services at Norwest Private. After the Medicare rebate is applied, it has been agreed among the Paediatricians that the maximum out of pocket cost (known as the medical gap) for newborn in-hospital paediatric consultations will not exceed \$300*.

Following delivery, your Obstetrician will routinely refer your newborn baby for assessment by the Paediatrician. Of course, you may select your preferred accredited Paediatrician at Norwest Private Hospital, in which case it is best to advise your Obstetrician beforehand.

Our specialist Paediatricians participate in a 24-hour on-call roster. In the event of an emergency, at times the Paediatrician of your choice may not be available, in which case the rostered on-call Paediatrician will respond.

Fees:

The professional fees charged by the Paediatricians at Norwest Private Hospital are usually lower than the Australian Medical Association's schedule of recommended fees for specialist consultant physicians. While in hospital, there will be a minimum of 2 consultations with the Paediatrician which occur at the beginning of your stay and before you go home. After your hospital discharge, a follow-up assessment for your baby at 6-8 weeks of age is recommended.

Please note, the Paediatrician's fees are separate from other hospital and medical specialist charges. You will be billed separately by the Paediatrician for individual services provided. These services are eligible for Medicare rebates and they may also qualify for further rebates under the Medicare Safety Net[^].

Application of Medicare and Private Health Fund cover for your newborn:

1. Newborn babies who can room in with their mother in hospital are classified as outpatients. Charges from the Paediatrician are not covered by your health fund in this instance. Instead a portion of these charges can be claimed back from Medicare. You are responsible for the medical gap or out of pocket cost between the fee charged by the Paediatrician and the Medicare rebate[^].
2. For newborns who require admission to Special Care Nursery for further medical support, your private health fund will cover the costs of your baby's care as an inpatient. Charges from the paediatrician are usually fully covered by your private health fund and Medicare during the time your baby is an inpatient in Special Care Nursery.

It is vital for you to contact your health fund along with Maternity Bookings for up to date confirmation of your health fund level of cover and the expiry date of your cover. If you are not covered by Medicare, we recommend you contact an accredited Paediatrician's office for further advice on charges.

** After Medicare rebate is applied. Subject to revision every 24 months. Excludes fees related to minor surgical procedures.*

[^] Online reference: <https://www.servicessaustralia.gov.au/individuals/services/medicare/medicare-safety-nets/what-are-thresholds>

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