



Information Sheet: Psychology Clinic Service

General Information

Primary Care Psychologists work alongside General Practitioners in medical clinics throughout the south-eastern suburbs. We offer low-cost clinic consultations for patients who cannot afford to pay high fees week after week, usually for several months.

Patients attending clinic-based consultations are out-of-pocket by approximately \$25–\$30 per session in excess of the Medicare rebate – the exact fee varies according to the rates set by a particular medical clinic. This is a very low fee and we invite you to compare this rate with other private psychology practices. Our mission at Primary Care Psychology is to provide general community access to quality psychological services.

In situations where Medicare rebates are not available (e.g. therapy for weight loss, chronic pain, smoking cessation, relationship counselling) it is encouraging to know that Primary Care Psychologists are registered with the major health insurance agencies. Our standard clinic fee of \$100 per hour can be offset by health insurance *extras cover*, and on average, patients can usually claim back \$50 per consultation (the exact amount and maximum number of sessions varies by insurance company).

Please keep in mind that we also offer completely bulk-billed (no fee) options for our home-visit, hospital-visit, and on-site office consultations. More information is available on the Primary Care Psychology website, or please call (03) 9553-8838 to discuss these services. In certain circumstances it may be necessary to conduct therapy sessions at a medical clinic, at least for the first few weeks.



What do I need to do now?

1. If you require a bulk-billed (no fee) Medicare service then please read the attached Medicare Information Sheet and follow the instructions.
2. Those wishing to use private health insurance (instead of Medicare; by law it is not possible to use both) will need to ring their insurance company to check their level of cover and the amount that can be claimed per session. Our fee for a clinic consultation is \$100 per hour, and, on average, clients with *extras cover* can usually claim approximately \$50 per session (the exact amount and maximum number of sessions varies by insurance company). Please ensure you contact your insurance company to determine what forms need to be brought along to the session for your psychologist to complete.
3. For WorkCover, TAC, and Victims of Crime claims please contact your funding organisation to determine what paperwork needs to be processed by your psychologist at the conclusion of each session.
4. Ring 9553-8838 or email carepsych@gmail.com to book a time for your first appointment.
5. Read the attached *Consent Form* (you do not need to sign this form if you have any questions).
6. Complete the attached form *Registration Form – Clinic Service*.
7. Bring your *Consent Form* and *Registration Form* to your first appointment, together with any other relevant paperwork (e.g., GP referral and Mental Health Care Plan, Insurance Report Form, etc).