

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: SPECIALIST CLINICS FUNDING

HOW WILL PATIENT CARE BE FUNDED?

The Victorian government provides capped funding to support the delivery of non-admitted care.

Where possible, Peter Mac also accesses Medicare funding in order to supplement limited funding provided by the Victorian government. Medical staff are generally employed under Rights of Private Practice agreements which enable them to see patients in the public facility and allocate funding back to the hospital.

For each consult/service, eligibility for Medicare funding is assessed and the appropriate funding source allocated.

Each service can only be funded through a single source.

In general, patients will incur no out-of-pocket expenses. In rare cases where neither main funding source (described above) is applicable, patients will be informed and options discussed.

WHO WILL SEE THE PATIENT?

Patients referred to Peter Mac are likely to be seen by a multidisciplinary team which could include a range of Oncology specialties and other specialists, nursing and allied health practitioners.

In order to facilitate streamlined multidisciplinary care we ask that referrers include a referral to the three main Oncology specialties: Surgical, Radiation and Medical, or Haematology if applicable.

Non-Oncology specialist physicians may also provide care to the patient, in which case we may contact the original referral practitioner for an updated referral to reflect ongoing multidisciplinary care.

WHAT ARE THE REFERRAL REQUIREMENTS?

Please provide any relevant clinical information required in order for us to rapidly prioritise patients and allocate them to the correct service.

In addition, please include information sufficient to meet Medicare-funding eligibility requirements, as follows:

- a named clinician/head of service (found here on the referral guidelines page)
- the date of referral
- a current provider number or the address of your practice
- your signature.

For more detail about referral guidelines please see [here](#).

THE FOLLOWING RESOURCES PROVIDE ADDITIONAL DETAIL ON SPECIALIST CLINICS FUNDING AND RIGHTS OF PRIVATE PRACTICE IN PUBLIC HOSPITALS:

- The Health Insurance Act 1973:
www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/cth/consol_act/hia1973164
- Specialist clinics in Victorian public hospitals: A resource kit for MBS-billed services:
<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/Api/downloadmedia/%7B665789E4-FBE2-4DE4-A957-8F4102EC3BD2%7D>
- Medicare Benefits Schedule:
<http://www.mbsonline.gov.au/internet/mbsonline/publishing.nsf/Content/Home>
- AMA Victoria – Information for practitioners: Treating private patients in a public hospital:
https://amavic.com.au/page/Specialists_in_Public_Hospitals/Working_as_a_specialist_in_a_Victorian_Public_Hospital/How_does_treating_patients_privately_in_a_public_hospital_work/
- Australian Taxation Office:
<http://law.ato.gov.au/atolaw/view.htm?docid=CLR/CR200526/NAT/ATO/00001#P1>