



## Schedule of Fees.

Each of the cardiologists who practice within The Cardiac Centre has their own schedule of fees. It is our aim to provide all patients with information about the expected cost of their cardiac consultations and procedures. This is to facilitate informed financial consent. There are essentially 2 fee structures in Australia on which all medical fees are based. The first is the schedule of fees recommended by the AMA. This fee structure has been in place for many years and takes consideration of not only the CPI but also the additional costs associated with the running of a medical practice. These include employment costs of staff, Medical Defence Insurance, continuing medical education costs, office maintenance, and software costs. The second schedule of fees is the "Medicare Benefits Schedule" (MBS), the fees prescribed by the Australian Government. This fee schedule is approximately one half of that recommended by the AMA. These fees have been tightly linked to the CPI, but have not taken into account the very rapid escalation of associated cost encountered in maintaining a top quality medical practice. Most medical practitioners in Australia will charge at a rate somewhere between these two fee schedules.

### What is a Gap Fee?

If you have full private health insurance this will generally cover the entire cost of your hospital bed fee, operating theatre costs, and most pathology and radiology fees, unless you have excess on your policy. Your health insurance will cover the cost of the in hospital consultation and operating fees by your doctor, only up to the MBS prescribed fee. Health insurance will not cover your medical costs up to the level recommended by the AMA. The difference between the MBS fee and our fee charged is the "Gap", and is an out-of-pocket cost which you will need to cover.

### Why is there a Gap Fee?

This practice aims at providing quality care of the highest standard, rather than "cut-price" care. In the last 5 years there has been an enormous escalation in the running costs of medical practice and Medical Indemnity Insurance has risen approximately six-fold. In addition our cardiologists are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for private patients.

Payment is always required at the time of consultation. Should you require admission to hospital and angiogram, angioplasty, or electrophysiology, the out of pocket expenses for your cardiologist may be up to \$500.