



Getting a Medicare card (for young people)

Medicare is Australia's universal health care system. Medicare pays part or all of the costs for necessary health care in Australia. They do not pay for all medical services. You can get your own Medicare card when you turn 15 and meet the specified criteria.

How to get a Medicare card

Medicare cards are available through [Services Australia](#) (external site) You can apply for your own Medicare card from when you turn 15 via the Services Australia website

<https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/services/medicare/medicare-card/how-get-your-own-card-15-years-old> (external site)

You can find your closest Medicare Service Centre at <https://findus.servicesaustralia.gov.au/> (external site)

How to use your Medicare card

When you get your Medicare card, you should always keep it on you. Make sure you bring it to all medical appointments.

What does Medicare cover?

Medicare may cover the costs for part or all of the following services:

- seeing a GP or specialist
- tests and scans, like x-rays
- most surgery and procedures performed by doctors
- eye tests by optometrists
- treatment as a public patient in a public hospital.

Always check with the service provider to see if you will have any out-of-pocket expenses.

What is Bulk Billing?

- Bulk billing is when the cost of your doctor's appointment is completely paid for by the government. Some doctors may charge extra and you will be required to pay the gap.
- You may be asked to sign a Medicare Claim form, or you may need to pay the doctor in full and then be refunded by Medicare after claiming.
- When you make an appointment with a doctor, ask if they bulk bill.
- If they don't bulk bill, ask them to explain the costs and how much you can get back from Medicare.

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**This document can be made available in alternative formats
on request for a person with disability.**

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