# SATURN PATHOLOGY-BILLING POLICY

## Purpose

*This policy outlines Saturn Pathology's billing practices and explains how it is applied to pathology and associated clinical services.*

---

## Booking Fee

*Saturn Pathology charges a **booking fee** for mobile collection services and extended appointment times at selected collection centres.*

- *The booking fee is **paid prior to the appointment**.*
- *The booking fee is **non-refundable if an appointment is cancelled within 48 hours** of the scheduled time.*
- *The booking fee **does not relate to any pathology test performed** and is separate from Medicare billing.*

---

## Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) Changes

*From **July 2025**, changes to the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) reduced the number of pathology tests eligible for a Medicare rebate. Medicare applies a complex internal assessment process to determine rebate eligibility, and laboratories are **unable to predict in advance** which individual tests will attract a rebate.*

---

## Medicare Claims

*Saturn Pathology submits all eligible claims to Medicare in good faith.*
*Where Medicare provides a rebate, **Saturn Pathology accepts the Medicare rebate as full payment** for those tests.*

---

## Patient Invoices

*Any invoice issued relates **only to pathology tests for which Medicare did not provide a rebate**.*
*No additional charges are applied to tests that have received a Medicare rebate.*

## *Medicare Assessment Outcomes*

*Saturn Pathology has **NO ABILITY TO QUERY, DISPUTE, OR INFLUENCE** Medicare's assessment outcomes or rebate determinations.*

## *Test Fee Schedule*

*Fees charged for **non-rebated tests** are based on the **Australian Medical Association (AMA) Schedule**.*

## *Upfront Payment Policy*

*Some services may require **upfront payment**, with fees based on the **Australian Medical Association (AMA) Schedule**.*

- *Once payment has been made, an **itemised receipt** will be issued.*
- *Patients may submit this receipt directly to Medicare to seek a rebate where applicable.*
- *Any decision regarding rebates rests solely with Medicare.*

## *Receipts and Additional Rebates*

*Following payment of an invoice, an **itemised receipt** will be provided.*
*Patients may submit this receipt directly to Medicare if they wish to apply for an additional rebate.*
*Saturn Pathology does not guarantee any rebate outcome.*

## *Non-Medicare/Private Collections*

*Test fees are based on the **Australian Medical Association (AMA) Schedule**.*

- *Payment for private tests will require upfront payment.*
- *Once payment has been made, an **itemised receipt** will be issued.*
- *Patients may submit this receipt to their designated health fund to seek a rebate where applicable.*

## *Mild Sedation Services (West Perth Collection Centre)*

*Saturn Pathology offers **mild sedation** (nitrous oxide / laughing gas) at the West Perth collection centre.*

- *The sedation fee includes **administration of nitrous oxide and a doctor consultation**.*
- *The **doctor consultation component** may be submitted to Medicare for a rebate.*
- *There is **no Medicare rebate** for the administration of nitrous oxide (laughing gas).*

## *IV Saline Fluid Therapy (West Perth Collection Centre)*

*Saturn Pathology offers **IV Saline Fluid Therapy** for the treatment of **Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome (POTS)** at the West Perth collection centre.*

- *The **initial treatment fee** includes a doctor consultation and administration of IV saline fluid therapy.*
- *The **doctor consultation component** may be submitted to Medicare for a rebate.*
- ***Follow-up treatments** include administration of IV saline fluid therapy only.*
- *There is **no Medicare rebate** for IV saline fluid therapy.*

## *Venesection Therapy (West Perth Collection Centre)*

*Saturn Pathology offers **therapeutic venesection** at the West Perth collection centre.*

- *The **initial appointment** includes a doctor consultation and venesection procedure.*
- *The **doctor consultation component** may be submitted to Medicare for a rebate, where applicable.*
- ***Follow-up treatments** include venesection only.*
- *There is **no Medicare rebate** for the venesection procedure itself unless otherwise determined by Medicare.*

## *Virtual Reality (VR) Goggles*

*Saturn Pathology offers **Virtual Reality (VR) Goggles** as an anxiety-management aid.*

- *Due to the additional setup time required, VR goggles are **only available with extended appointments**.*

---

## *Numbing Cream*

*Saturn Pathology offers **topical numbing cream**.*

- *Due to application time requirements, numbing cream is **only available with extended appointments**.*
- *An **additional fee** applies for the supply of numbing cream.*

---

## *Additional Charges*

*Saturn Pathology may apply **temporary surcharges** from time to time to cover unexpected or short-term increases in operational costs. Any applicable surcharges will be disclosed **at the time of booking or invoicing**.*

---

## *Overdue Accounts*

*Accounts that remain **unpaid** beyond the stated payment terms may be referred to a **licensed debt collection agency**. Where referral occurs, the patient/debtor may be responsible for any debt recovery fees and associated costs incurred in collecting the outstanding amount, as permitted by law. These costs may be added to the outstanding balance and become payable in addition to the original debt. Please refer to **Saturn Pathology Medical Billing & Debt Collection Policy** for additional details.*

---

## *Further Information*

*If you require any additional information regarding billing or your invoice, please contact the **Saturn Pathology Billing Department**.*

---