

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.
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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.
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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**.

Further Information

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