

Finding a good General Practitioner (GP)

Everyone should have a General Practitioner (GP), or local doctor, that they feel comfortable with. Your GP is usually the first health professional to contact if you start to feel unwell as they're more available than specialists and they deal with all health problems.

It is important that you trust your GP and feel comfortable with them so that you can talk about your health.

A good GP will look at your physical and mental health and will refer you to - and work together with - other health professionals, if this is what you need.

Your GP is your partner and coordinator in your health care and having a good relationship with your GP will help you stay in control of your health.

Appointments

Most GP appointments are between five and fifteen minutes long, therefore if you think that you'll need longer time be sure to ask the receptionist to book you in for a long appointment.

Be friendly and polite to the receptionist as they are the gate keeper to the medical practice and can be helpful when you need to make a last minute appointment.

Be sure to call and cancel an appointment if you can no longer attend so that the appointment time can be made available for someone else.





Costs

The cost of seeing a GP varies with each medical practice. Some GPs will 'bulk bill' which means there is no out-of-pocket cost to you as the appointment is covered by Medicare.

Other GPs may bill you, which means there is a difference between their fee and what Medicare covers, which you will have to pay.

It is a good idea to ask the receptionist how much a standard appointment will cost, how much you will get back from Medicare, or if the GP will 'bulk bill'.

Don't be afraid to ask if the GP can bulk bill you, especially if you have a Health Care Card.



Government of **Western Australia**
Child and Adolescent Health Service

15 Hospital Avenue, Nedlands, WA, 6009
Telephone: (08) 6456 2222
Produced by Patient Flow Unit
Ref: 1158 © CAHS 2019



This document can be made available in alternative formats on request.

Disclaimer: This publication is for general education and information purposes. Contact a qualified healthcare professional for any medical advice needed.
© State of Western Australia, Child and Adolescent Health Service