



DIAGNOSTIC AND INTERVENTIONAL ENDOSCOPY • ERCP • CAPSULE ENDOSCOPY • ACNES

DR BERNARD CHIN MBBS (Adelaide) FRACP (Australia) Gastroenterologist  
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## YOUR FEES EXPLAINED

### Billing Policy for Private Patients

Your OOP (Out of Pocket) fee covers:

- 1 X One Pre scope (Initial) Consultation
- 1 X Procedure
- 1 X One Post scope (Follow Up) Consultation

All subsequent consultations will attract an OOP charge.  
Price ranges depending on the complexity and length of consultation.

### Consultations

You would have been given a fee quote for your initial and follow up consultations (if required) with our doctors prior to any appointments (A \$35 non-refundable deposit for consultations is to be paid prior to your initial consultation). These fees are in line with the Australian Medical Association (AMA) schedule of fees and are usually significantly higher than the Medicare Rebate which have not been adequately indexed to inflation by the Federal Government over the past 3 decades.

In rare examples where the case is particularly complex, Cairns Gastroenterology may quote a higher fee than the AMA rate. Please note the consultation fee covers the time and professional opinion of our doctors as requested by your referring doctor. It **IS NOT** a guarantee of a successful clinical outcome. As such, no refund for consultation fees will be entertained once the consultation has been performed and a report sent to your referring doctor.

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### Endoscopy Patients may receive up to 4 accounts as outlined below:

1. Anaesthetic Fee: Billed directly by **The Cairns Anaesthetic Group**.

Fees charged depend on the procedure, how long the procedure takes and general health of the patient. This fee is billed prior to your procedure, and you will be contacted by Cairns Anaesthetic Group.

**Patients without health fund** cover will need to claim a rebate from Medicare and will be out-of-pocket the gap between the rebate and the anaesthetic fee.

We advise that all patients check with The Cairns Anaesthetic Group on (07) 4044 6900 to determine if there will be any out-of-pocket fees prior to your procedure.

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2. Theatre / Accommodation Fee: Billed directly by **Ramsay Cairns Private Hospital / Cairns Day Surgery**.

**Patients without health fund cover** should enquire at the Cairns Private Hospital / Cairns Day Surgery reception with regards to theatre and accommodation fees as the cost varies depending on the procedure/equipment used.



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**Patients with health fund cover** may have to pay an EXCESS or CO-PAYMENT for theatre and accommodation fees depending on their level of hospital cover. Please clarify the exact amount with the Cairns Private Hospital / Cairns Day Surgery reception and also your health fund.

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**3. Specialist Fee: Billed directly by Cairns Gastroenterology.**

**Patients without health fund cover** may be able to claim a rebate from Medicare and will be out-of-pocket the gap between the rebate and specialist fee. The entire specialist fee will need to be paid at your convenience at least two (2) weeks prior to the procedure.

**Patients with health fund cover** may have out-of-pocket fees after their health fund contribution. Such fees will need to be paid at your convenience at least two (2) weeks prior to the procedure.

To avoid any additional, unexpected out-of-pocket fees, please check with your fund to confirm that you will be covered for your procedure. Commonly used item numbers: Colonoscopy 32222, Gastroscopy 30473, Flexible Sigmoidoscopy 32084. An extra out of pocket fee may apply after your procedure for the removal of polyps, Haemorrhoid Banding or Dilatations.

If you are no longer in a government funded scheme (such as DVA / Defense) you are responsible for the full private fees.

If you are unable to attend or need to reschedule your procedure, please advise our Medical Receptionist at least 7 days prior to your appointment to avoid a 5% administration charge being withheld.

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**4. Pathology Fee: Billed directly by the Pathologist**

If you have a biopsy taken at the procedure, this is taken away to a pathology lab for analysis. An invoice may be issued by a pathologist for this analysis of which a Medicare rebate and health funds may cover some of the fee.

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**Specific Patient Information (prior to undergoing endoscopic procedures)**

**Gastroscopy**

A patient can:

- Have a numb mouth and tongue for a few hours,
- Feel bloated but this usually passes quite quickly,
- Feel drowsy as a result of sedation,
- Have a sore throat for a few hours,
- Have a tear of the oesophagus, stomach and duodenum occurs very rarely particularly if a biopsy is taken or polyp removed. This may need medicines or surgical treatment.
- Have a test for Helicobacter Pylori taken on the day (1 capsule orally, followed by a breath sample) shortly after your gastroscopy.



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### Oesophageal dilatation

A patient can:

- Have as above for gastroscopy
- Have oesophageal perforation whilst rare can occur (rates of 0.1% to 0.4% have been reported)

### Colonoscopy

- Bowel perforation rarely occurs (rates up 0.72% have been reported). The rate is highest in older patients, patients with unusual anatomy, patients with severe diverticulosis, patient with arterial disease, polyp removal, APC laser treatment and patients with bowel cancer. If this occurred, an operation may be required to repair the hole.
- Post polypectomy bleeding is uncommon and usually self-limiting. Rarely, a repeat colonoscopy may have to be performed to treat persistent bleeding.
- Post procedure discomfort due to air insufflation during procedure. This passes quickly.
- Missed lesions: polyps up to 1cm (miss rates of up to 10% have been reported). Polyps and bowel cancer greater than 1cm in size (miss rates of up to 2.5% have been reported). Please follow all preparation instructions as miss rates increase if bowel prep is poor.
- Incomplete colonoscopy: If there is unusual bowel anatomy or pathology, it can be impossible to complete the procedure. You may then be referred for a CT colonography or barium enema as a supplementary test.
- Haemorrhoid banding: Varying degrees of discomfort, pain and bleeding can occur and last up to 2 weeks. Most patients settle with simple analgesia. A small number may require antibiotics for mild local infection.

### Important Information

- If you do not attend a prescope/initial consultation or pre-procedure consultation, we will contact you to reschedule, and a letter will be sent to your referring doctor to advise that you have not been clinically assessed by our doctors.
- If your contact details remain current, we will inform both you and your GP of an appropriate recall period.
- You will be at the hospital between 4-6 hours on the day. As per hospital regulations, you will require an escort home (as you are not permitted to drive) and someone to stay with you after the procedure. If you do not provide details of an escort to the hospital, your procedure will be cancelled.
- Any necessary medications can be taken as per usual, unless otherwise instructed.
- Please ensure below is signed and taken with you on the day of your procedure.

**By signing below, I consent to the use of my personal information and Medical Photography Images by Cairns Gastroenterology to other health providers involved in my medical treatment and healthcare. I have read and understood the information on both sides of this leaflet prior to my procedure.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_