



Australian Government

Department of Health,  
Disability and Ageing

**medicare**

# Why we need your agreement to bill Medicare

When you receive Medicare-eligible medical services as a privately insured patient, you may be asked to agree to assign your Medicare benefit to your health insurer. This allows them to process claims and receive Medicare benefits directly for the service you received. Your private health insurer will then process the Medicare benefit to your healthcare provider.

This does not change how Medicare works and does not increase costs or affect the care you receive. Assigning your Medicare benefit means that you should have less or no upfront costs to pay.

Your healthcare provider or hospital staff will talk to you about how to assign your Medicare benefit as part of the normal billing process.



## Options for assigning your benefit

- If your healthcare provider or hospital is using a medical gap cover agreement or similar arrangement to bill for medical services you receive, your Medicare benefit may be assigned automatically. You won't need to sign or provide any information.
- If automatic assignment doesn't apply, you may be asked to assign your Medicare benefit to your private health insurer. You will need to sign a form agreeing to this. You can sign the form before or after your treatment either digitally or on paper.
- If you receive health services regularly, for example, as part of a course of treatment, one assignment agreement may be able to cover all the services you receive. It needs to include the required details for each service or admission.
- Ask your healthcare provider or hospital for more information on how you can assign the Medicare benefit so it can be processed on your behalf.

## What happens after your Medicare benefit is paid

- After your private health insurer receives your Medicare benefit, they will send you a notification.
- To ensure you receive the notification correctly, contact your private health insurer to update your contact details.

**Saying yes to Medicare payment is now easier**  
[health.gov.au/assignment-of-medicare-benefit](http://health.gov.au/assignment-of-medicare-benefit)



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