



Yellow Gum

PSYCHOLOGY

Medicare & Turning 14

We find this often comes up in our clinic for 14- and 15-year-olds, when Medicare rebates are not received by parents, after it appears they were approved.

What Changes at Age 14?

From age 14, Medicare treats young people's health records more privately. This means **parents/guardians can no longer view their young person's appointments or rebates** through Medicare without the young person's consent. It also means **your bank account will no longer be linked to their Medicare profile**. This can cause delays in receiving rebates, which cannot be paid by Medicare until a bank account is linked. Unpaid rebates are not lost and are generally paid once a bank account is linked.

It **does not change their eligibility** for healthcare services or rebates.

What Stays the Same?

- ✓ Your young person is still eligible for the same Medicare rebates for their healthcare, including at our clinic.
- ✓ We can still process the rebate on the day of their appointment.
- ✓ A valid referral is still required.
- ✓ As a parent/carer, you can remain involved in treatment as agreed with your young person and their clinician.

What You Need to Do

- ✓ **Register a bank account** with Medicare for your young person so rebates can be paid - **this can be your account, or theirs**.
- ✓ **Talk with your young person** about these changes so they understand their increasing healthcare rights and responsibilities.
- ✓ If your young person needs ongoing assistance managing their Medicare, e.g., due to illness or disability, contact Services Australia.

Why Does This Happen?

Australian law recognises that young people have the right to seek confidential healthcare. From age 14, Medicare treats your young person's health records more privately, in line with their developing capacity to make their own healthcare decisions. This is a standard, age-based change that applies to all health services in Australia.

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