**Supporting patients’ visibility of out-of-pocket costs**

The Department of Health and Aged Care is working with the medical profession, private health insurers and consumers to improve transparency of out-of-pocket costs for medical specialist services via the delivery of the Medical Costs Finder.

This work builds on the existing Medical Costs Finder website, which provides typical out-of-pocket costs based on historic government data for over 1,300 common in-hospital and out-of-hospital services.

The latest enhancements will allow individual medical specialists to publish their practising locations, indicative fees and private health insurer arrangements for a selected number of common services.

It will enable consumers (with their GPs) to have greater confidence in the value of private health and to mitigate against ‘bill shock’ by enabling early and meaningful conversations about costs and insurance before they undertake informed financial consent. You can view a brief video demonstration of the website enhancements here: <https://youtu.be/mPrFfTR_0HE>

**Why should I sign up to the Medical Costs Finder?**

* Consumers are seeking reliable information on the indicative costs for medical services​.
* Consumers will develop a better understanding of what contributes to their out-of-pocket costs, including their choice of insurance​.
* You will increase your online presence and be searchable by consumers and GPs.​

**Which specialities will be included?**

For the initial release of the website, specialists from the following areas of speciality practice will be invited to participate: **cardiology**, cardiothoracic surgery, **gastroenterology**, general surgery (with a particular focus on breast, abdominal and colorectal surgeries), gynaecology and obstetrics, ophthalmology, orthopaedic surgery, plastic and reconstructive surgery, and urology.

The Department is taking a staged approach to onboard specialists, with additional specialities to be included over time.

**How can I participate?**

Simply visit <http://medicalcostsfinderportal.health.gov.au/> create a profile and setup delegate access for your practice support staff. You can provide information for some or all of the agreed services and have complete control over the information you choose to publish. The website enhancements will go live in the coming month, so you have plenty of time to tailor your profile ahead of the public launch. If you have any further questions, please reach out to the project team via email at ooptransparency@health.gov.au.