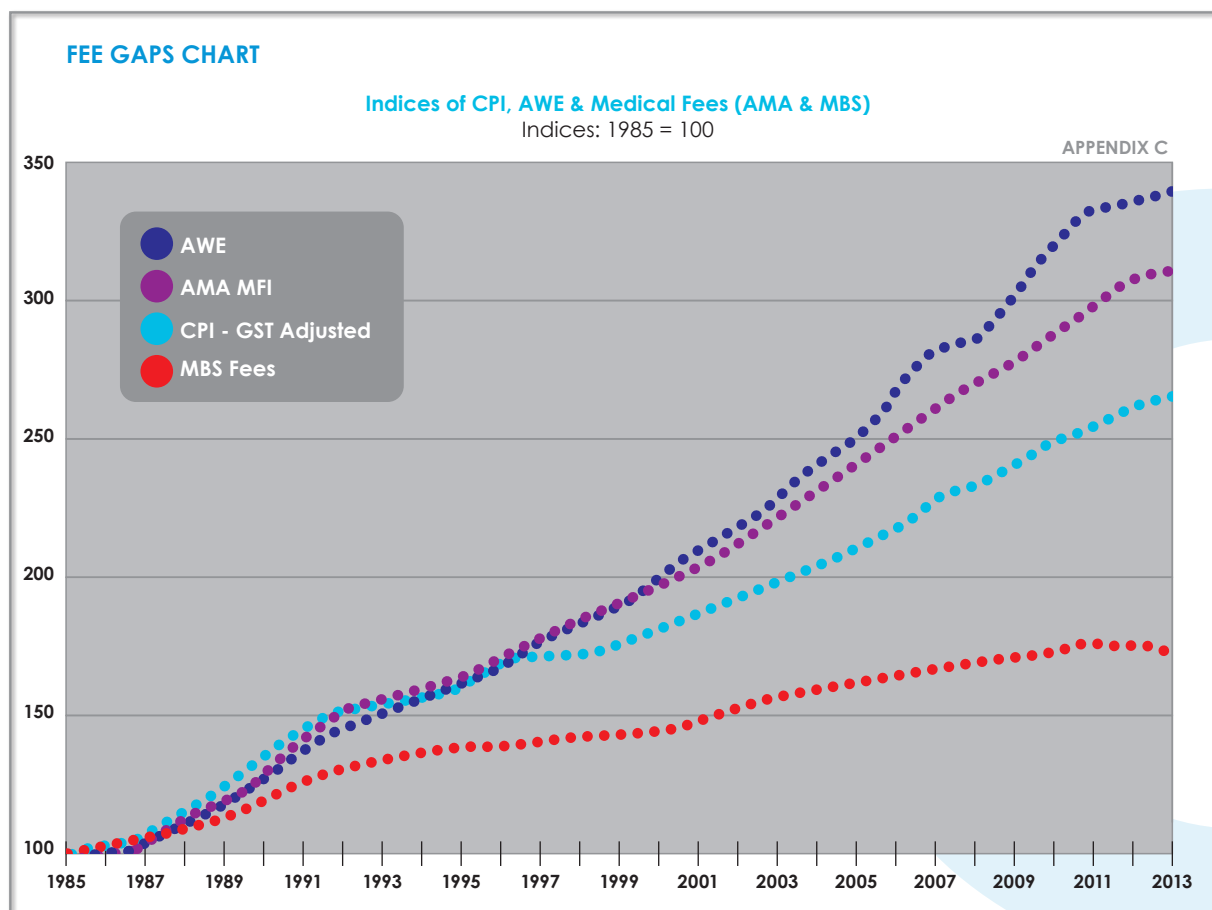




SCALE OF FEES 2018-19

With the introduction of Medicare in the early 1980's the government set out a recommended fee known as the **Medical Benefits Schedule (MBS)** fee. These fees are fixed by the government and have not kept pace with the rise in average weekly earnings (AWE) or inflation rate (CPI). Indeed the government has frozen any increases in the MBS fee until at least 2020. The **Australian Medical Association (AMA)** has drawn up its own list of recommended fees. The disparity between MBS fee and AMA recommended fee (which best reflects rise in practice costs) unfortunately continues to widen.



Doctors in private practice are free to set their own fees according to what they believe is a fair fee for each service taking into account complexity, expertise required and their training.

It is the policy of this practice to charge the scale of fees as recommended by the AMA. There is a “gap” therefore between what the practice charges and what you will be reimbursed by Medicare and your health fund. Note that this practice is not responsible for fees set by the hospital, pathology services (e.g. biopsy, blood tests), radiology and anaesthetic services. If you wish to discuss fees with any of these service providers you should check with them yourself.

The following table gives an example of the common procedures performed and the fees which will be charged as of November 2018. The list is not exhaustive, but will give an idea of any potential gap payment which may be charged. A full and comprehensive list of charges for all procedures and consultations can be provided on request.

Procedure	AMA Fee	MBS Fee
Initial Consultation	\$335	\$150.90
Subsequent Consultation	\$154	\$75.50
Panendoscopy	\$620	\$177.10
Colonoscopy	\$960	\$334.35
Flexible Sigmoidoscopy	\$325	\$111.35
Colonoscopy & Polypectomy	\$1355	\$469.20
Oesophageal Dilatation	\$890	\$348.95
Endoscopic Ultrasound	\$1020	\$364.90
EUS and Biopsy	\$1575	\$563.30
Capsule Endoscopy	\$2730	\$1145.45
ERCP	\$995	\$364.90
ERCP and Sphincterotomy	\$1550	\$563.30
ERCP with Stent	\$1510	\$555.35

NB: If you are having two procedures under the same anaesthetic (e.g. colonoscopy plus gastroscopy), Medicare and the Health Funds will only reimburse you 50% of the schedule fee for the second or lesser procedure. This will unfortunately exacerbate the gap between the practice fee and the amount you will be reimbursed. The AMA has lobbied the federal government to change this rule without success.

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