

## Tips and information for Gold Coast clinicians

*Please note: this document has been written as a general guide only and should be used with discretion.*

### Financial cost to patients:

- The costs in Table 1 (page 2) are indicative only and may change without prior notification.
- Costs and cost calculations in Table 1 assume the patient is eligible for Medicare. If they are not, Medical TOP (MTOPT) with GP providers would cost an additional \$75 to \$150.  
For private providers, the costs would typically double, i.e. an additional \$400 minimum.
- The overall out-of-pocket expense for a TOP consists of three parts: clinical consultation and care; medication; and procedures (if required).
- Some patients will require a second or third consultation. General practitioners (GPs) may charge an additional fee per consultation (\$30-70), while others will choose to bulk bill follow-up consultations. Two GPs include three appointments in their fee.
- The fees for GP providers do not include medication costs. The indicative medication costs are: \$7 for patients with Medicare and a concession card; \$39 for patients with a Medicare card only; and ±\$400 for private patients. The fees for private providers do include the cost of the medication or procedure.
- The fees of the private providers are the minimum cost a small minority of patients will incur. Most patients will have costs ranging from ±\$1000 to ±\$2000. However, complex cases with later gestation may be up to \$5000.
- All GPs and private providers offer the option of contraceptive advice and management during the TOP episode of care. There is usually an additional fee for this service. Inserting an IUD without local anaesthetic costs from \$180. Two GP provides this service without any out-of-pocket cost to the patients – they include depot injections, oral medication or IUD.

### Practical arrangements

- All GPs and private providers accept self-referrals from patients as well as referrals from other clinicians.
- All GP providers accept referrals from other GPs. Peer-to-peer referrals can potentially reduce the cost to patients. This is because, if their usual GP request the mandatory investigations that are required to inform the clinical decision whether a MTOPT can safely be offered, it reduces the workload of the GP offering the MTOPT service.
- GPs and private providers have flexible appointment systems, with most offering their services six days a week.
- Most GPs and private providers require a minimum 30-minute face-to-face consultation. One GP first does a telephone consultation followed by a face-to-face consultation. Marie Stopes offer the option of a telephone service for selected patients;
- 'Children by Choice' is a not-for-profit organisation that provides counselling and support to patients. They have several options to help support women financially.