



Cost of Chemotherapy – Patient Information

Understanding the potential costs of treatment is important. This guide outlines typical expenses associated with chemotherapy. Please ask if anything is unclear.

Doctor's Fees

- No-gap arrangement with most private health funds
- Exception: Some funds (e.g. HIF) may have out-of-pocket costs
- Pre-chemotherapy review (Medicare item 116)

Chemotherapy Drug Costs

- Most treatments are PBS-listed – standard co-payment only
- Non-PBS drugs may incur additional costs
- Costs explained in advance by your doctor and Slade Pharmacy

Private Hospital Costs

- Usually administered in a private hospital day unit or inpatient bed
- Health fund excess typically payable *once per calendar year*. Amount depends on your policy, check with your fund for details

Medicare Safety Net

- Higher rebates may apply after reaching threshold
- Check status with Medicare

Tests & Investigations

- Pathology: usually bulk-billed, some specialised tests may incur costs
- Radiology (CT, PET, MRI): may have out-of-pocket fees
- Other tests or specialist reviews billed separately

Other Possible Costs

- Supportive medications (antibiotics, anti-nausea medications etc)
- Procedures (e.g. PICC line, port)
- Travel and parking

Summary

Most patients have manageable out-of-pocket costs. Potential costs include consultation fees, hospital excess, non-PBS medications, and external provider fees.

Questions

We aim to ensure no unexpected costs. Please discuss any concerns with your doctor or staff.