

medicare

Medicare Safety Nets



Australian Government



Services
Australia

Medicare Safety Nets

If you need to see a doctor or get tests regularly, you could end up with high medical costs. Medicare Safety Nets can help to lower your costs for out of hospital services. These can include:

- seeing a doctor or specialist
- some tests and scans like blood tests and CT scans.

When you spend over a certain amount in a calendar year, we'll give you a higher amount back.

Keep in mind, your doctor's visit or test will still cost the same.

WHAT ARE THE THRESHOLDS

Medicare Safety Nets have thresholds. When you spend certain amounts on out of pocket costs, you'll reach the threshold. Once you've reached the thresholds, you'll start getting higher Medicare benefits. This means you'll get more money back from us for certain Medicare services.

Your out of pocket costs count towards your thresholds. There are 3 Medicare Safety Net thresholds:

1. Original Medicare Safety Net
2. Extended Medicare Safety Net—General
3. Extended Medicare Safety Net—Concessional and Family Tax Benefit Part A

You can find out more about the thresholds and current amounts at servicesaustralia.gov.au/safetynet

You need to lodge your Medicare claims to have your medical costs count towards your threshold. The sooner you claim, the sooner you can reach a threshold.

VERIFIED AND UNVERIFIED COSTS

Only verified costs count towards your threshold.

Verified costs are when you pay your doctor's fee before you claim from us. If you have unverified costs you need to pay them and give us the receipt before they count towards your threshold.

HOW TO REGISTER

If you're enrolled in Medicare, you're automatically registered as an individual for Medicare Safety Nets.

If you're part of a family or couple, you can register as a family to combine your costs. This means you're likely to reach the threshold sooner. You need to register as a family even if all family members are on the same Medicare card. You only need to register once.

If your family situation changes, you need to let us know. This includes if you have a child, you and your partner separate, or your dependent child leaves your care.

You can register or tell us about a change in your family situation by either:

- completing the Medicare Safety Net couples and families registration and amendment form available at servicessaustralia.gov.au/safetynet
- calling **132 011***

HOW DO I KNOW WHEN I'VE REACHED A THRESHOLD?

Only out of hospital services count towards your threshold. When you reach your threshold as an individual, we'll automatically pay you higher Medicare benefits. We'll pay this for the rest of the calendar year.

If you're registered as a family, we'll let you know when you're close to reaching a threshold. We'll also ask you to confirm who's in your family.

Once you reach the threshold and confirm your family members, we'll start paying you higher Medicare benefits. We'll pay this for the rest of the calendar year. You can check your threshold amounts at any time by:

- using your Medicare online account through myGov
- using your Express Plus Medicare mobile app
- calling **132 011***

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- visit us online at **servicesaustralia.gov.au/safetynet**
- like us on **facebook.com/ServicesAustralia**
- follow us on Twitter at **twitter.com/ServicesGovAU**
- Call **132 011***

If you're deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment you can use the National Relay Service to contact us. For more information visit **relayservice.gov.au**

If you need help translating this information call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) on **131 450***

*Call charges apply.