

Medicare does not pay benefits for some pathology tests

***When does this apply?
What does this mean for me?***

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The Australian Government through Medicare, subsidises the cost of many of your medical costs. There are however, certain circumstances where Medicare does not make any contribution towards the cost of the service. If the reason why your pathology test has been requested falls into one of these non-Medicare funded categories, you will not receive any contribution towards the payment from Medicare and you will be expected to pay the full account yourself.

In general:

- A Medicare benefit is not payable in respect to any pathology testing for the purposes of
 - Life insurance
 - Superannuation or provident account schemes
 - Admission to membership of a friendly society
- A Medicare benefit is not payable in respect to any pathology test initiated or required by your employer.*
- A Medicare benefit is not payable in respect to any pathology test initiated or required by your University or other institution of study.*
- A Medicare benefit is not payable for any pathology testing related to health screening where the test is not reasonably required for the management of a medical condition of the patient.*
- A Medicare benefit is not payable where Medicare imposes specific conditions on eligibility for payment (eg: a limited number of tests per year, a proven disease state, a family history of disease) and you do not meet the criteria.

So, if your employer, your teaching / training institution, your doctor or some other body requires you to have a pathology test that falls into any of the above categories, you will receive an account and will be expected to pay the full amount yourself. In some instances you may be required to make payment on the day.

* (Unless the Health Minister has specifically otherwise directed)