

What is Helping Children with Autism – Medicare?

The federal government has provided funding through Medicare to assist with the cost of accessing allied health services for children with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

The allied health services available through Medicare include:

- Occupational Therapy (OT)
- Speech Pathology (SP)
- Psychology
- Audiology
- Orthoptist services
- Optometry

Families can access a rebate from Medicare for:

- Up to four sessions to assist with the assessment and diagnosis of an eligible disorder
- Up to 20 allied health sessions (in total) for eligible children.

To access the rebate from Medicare you need a treatment plan developed by your GP, Paediatrician or Psychiatrist. A treatment plan must be in place before your child turns 13 and the treatment sessions used before your child turns 15.

Who is eligible?

Any child under 13 years of age and has been diagnosed with one of the following conditions and has a current treatment plan is eligible to access a rebate from Medicare:

- Autism spectrum disorder
- Asperger's syndrome
- Rett's syndrome
- Childhood disintegrative disorder
- Pervasive developmental delay

Money Matters

This program provides a rebate for services only. Often there will be some 'out of pocket' cost to you because the cost of the service depends on the fees charged by the service provider you choose.

The rebate is currently \$74.80 per session. This is the amount of money you can claim back from Medicare after paying the fees for the service you use. For example, at Pinarc you will be charged \$112.50 for a 45-min session with a Speech Pathologist. You can claim \$74.80 per session back. This means your 'out of pocket' expense will be \$37.70

Make sure you know your 'out of pocket' costs before starting any services

How can I access Helping Children with Autism - Medicare?

In order to access the Medicare rebate for these services, the service provider you choose will need a referral letter from a Paediatrician or Psychiatrist.

If you do not have a referral letter you will not be able to claim the Medicare rebate. This means you will have to pay the full cost of the service.

Can I get Medicare services from Pinarc?

Pinarc is registered to provide Medicare services. We are able to provide Occupational Therapy and Speech Pathology under Helping Children with Autism – Medicare.

Services can be at Pinarc, your home or other places such as kinder or school. Services provided off site will be charged at a higher rate as we need to allow for travel costs.

To find out more or make a referral contact Pinarc's Central Intake on 532 91398.

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