

7 May 2018



## **NOTICE OF REDUCTION IN FEES AND PRICES**

### **Our Service Charges Explained**

The majority of patient services we provide are funded by the Ministry of Health. Some are not, and the SCIP is forced to recover these directly from patients.

The SCIP is mindful that these costs can be onerous for people. We endeavour to keep our charges as low as possible, and use charitable donations to assist with this.

We have recently reviewed our fees and charges and announce some changes here.

### Parts, Batteries and Repair charges

All patients over 19 years are required to pay for these items, whether their cochlear implants are self-funded or publicly-funded.

Children under the age of 19 years who are NZ residents have essential items funded by the Ministry of Health but non-essential items (items such as coil or processor covers, as well as some audio accessories) are not funded and costs are passed on.

All out-of-warranty repairs are charged at the cost levied by the manufacturer.

In order to help reduce the burden of these costs, from 1 July 2018 the programme will reduce by 15% its prices on all parts and batteries.

### New Implant Systems and Replacement Processors

Some patients ineligible for Ministry of Health funds elect to pay privately for a cochlear implant system or systems themselves, and are also required to pay for any of their speech processor replacements at a future date.

Where a speech processor is lost, stolen, or damaged beyond repair patients replace these themselves via an insurance claim or at their own cost.

Some patients also elect to purchase an additional processor.

To assist with these expenses, the programme will reduce by 5% the price of all new systems and replacement processors, back-dated to 1 February 2018. Any patients who were charged for these items after 1 February will be provided a refund.

Please note this change does not apply to hospital and surgery prices associated with new implants, as these are not levied by the SCIP but are other provider charges.

### 2-Year After-Care / Hourly Rate – Private Patients

For patients who fund a private cochlear implant via the SCIP the programme charges a fee of \$5400 for the first 2-years of follow-up consultations. After 2-years, clinic consultations (typically an annual review) are charged at an hourly rate of \$200/hr.

A rate of \$200/hr is also charged to non-NZ residents or adults (over 19 years) who received their implant overseas.

We are now able to remove the \$200/hr consult fee that applies to clinic appointments after 2 years for those who paid for an implant in NZ, and who reside permanently in the SCIP region. Other non-NZ residents or adults who received an implant outside New Zealand must still pay the \$200/hr clinic fee.

The programme is not able to reduce or remove the \$5400 fee at present and so this remains unchanged for all new patients who pay for a cochlear implant system. We hope to reduce this fee as charitable funding allows.

### Summary of Fee Changes

Fee	Reduction	Effective Date	Applies To
Parts, Batteries	15%	1 July 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All adults over 19 years</li> <li>Children under 19 years for non-essential items</li> </ul>
Repairs	No change	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Repairs charged at manufacturer price</li> </ul>
Private Implant System or Replacement Processor	5%	1 February 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any private patient funding their own implant</li> <li>Any lost or stolen processor, or processor damaged beyond repair and an Insurance replacement</li> <li>Any privately purchased additional processor</li> </ul>
2-Year After-Care - \$5400	No change	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any new private implant</li> </ul>
Hourly Fee - \$200/hr	Charge Removed	1 April 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Private patients who paid for their implant in NZ and who permanently live in the SCIP region</li> </ul>
Hospital Fees	N/A	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>These are not SCIP charges</li> </ul>
Surgical Fees	N/A	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>These are not SCIP charges</li> </ul>