



Important information for patients who may be admitted to hospital for more than 35 days

As you might be aware, Australia's public health care funding system provides eligible people with access to free emergency and urgent treatment including allied health, diagnostic, medical and nursing services as a public patient in hospital.

What you might not know, is that patients in hospital are given a care type classification. These care types are:

- **Acute care** - where patient care is to establish a diagnosis, cure or improve your illness, treat your injury or relevant symptoms.
- **Subacute care** – includes rehabilitation, patients receiving geriatric evaluation and management, psychogeriatric and palliative care.
- **Maintenance (non-acute) care** – where the patient care or treatment goal is to prevent deterioration in the patients' functional and current health status.

Under Australia's public hospital regulations, doctors must certify that patients staying in hospital for 35 days or longer are still in need of acute or subacute care.

It is likely that you were first admitted as an acute or subacute patient for your current episode of care. However, if your doctor makes the clinical decision that you need maintenance (non-acute) care only, and you have been in hospital for a continuous period of more than 35 days, you will be re-classified as a Nursing Home Type Patient (NHTP) and charged a daily fee. The 35 days are counted from the day you were first admitted to hospital, even if you transferred between hospitals during that time.

This applies to all public, Department of Veterans' Affairs and private patients.

This daily fee rate is in accordance with the WA Department of Health Patient Fees and Charges Manual. All public and Department of Veterans' Affairs patients are charged a daily fee of \$60.65. If you are admitted as a private patient the total daily fee payable is \$198.75. As a private patient, you are required to pay a daily fee of \$60.65 and your health insurance fund will pay the difference of \$138.10 per day.

If you are a NHTP staying in hospital longer than 35 days, rental assistance may be available if you are receiving, or are entitled to receive, Centrelink benefits or a support pension from the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

In the event that your doctor decides you need to be in hospital under maintenance care, after 35 days you will be contacted by a patient liaison officer, and receive a letter notifying you, or your family or carer, that your classification has changed and that you will now be charged a daily fee. If your condition changes and becomes acute once more, you will not





be charged the fee during that time. Once your medical condition stabilises, you will begin to be charged the daily fee again.

For more information

Please contact the Centrelink general enquiry number on 132 300 or the Centrelink multi-lingual number on 131 202.

The Department of Veterans' Affairs general enquiries number is 08 9366 8444 for more information.

If you have question related to your medical care, your change to maintenance (non-acute) care, or your change to NHTP classification please contact the medical team currently providing your treatment.

If you need assistance with seeking appropriate accommodation or facility placement, please ask to speak to a hospital social worker.

If you have questions about the fees or charges associated with being classified as a NHTP, please contact the Revenue Department at your hospital.

Royal Perth Hospital

Social Work Department – (08) 9224 2711
Revenue Department – (08) 9224 3589

Armadale Hospital

Social Work Department – (08) 9391 1087
Revenue Department – (08) 9391 2087

Bentley Hospital

Social Work Department – (08) 9416 3781
Revenue Department – (08) 9416 3546

Kalamunda Hospital - switchboard

Switchboard – (08) 9257 8100
Alternative contacts at Armadale Hospital

