

How do I know when I have reached a Medicare Safety Net threshold?

Medicare will contact you when you are nearing a threshold. It is important that you let QML Pathology know when you hit the Medicare Safety Net so that we can ensure that you are charged at the correct fee.

How do I register?

Registering for the Medicare Safety Net is free.

- **Individuals** are automatically registered and just need to keep their details up-to-date with Medicare.
- All **families and couples** need to register. Each family member needs to be identified so their medical costs can be counted towards the family's Medicare Safety Net.

Registration options include:

- Visit your local Medicare office and register in person
- Download a form from www.medicareaustralia.gov.au
Completed forms can be submitted at your local Medicare office or sent to GPO Box 9822, in your capital city.
- Visit www.medicareaustralia.gov.au and register online.
- Phone 13 20 11.

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since the 1920s*



Pathology and the Medicare Safety Net



Medicare Safety Net Thresholds as at 1 January 2009

If you need to see a doctor or have pathology tests regularly, you could end up with high medical costs. The **Medicare Safety Net** is designed to help you when you need it most. It means that once you reach a Medicare Safety Net threshold (within a calendar year) your out-of-pocket expenses may be reduced.

The Medicare Safety Net covers a range of medical services that you receive **out of hospital**. Some examples of services where costs count towards the Medicare Safety Net are:

- GP and specialist consultations
- Blood tests
- CT scans
- Pap smears
- Ultrasounds
- X-rays.

Glossary

Family Tax Benefit Part A (FTB (A)) - an annual tax benefit to help families with the cost of raising children.

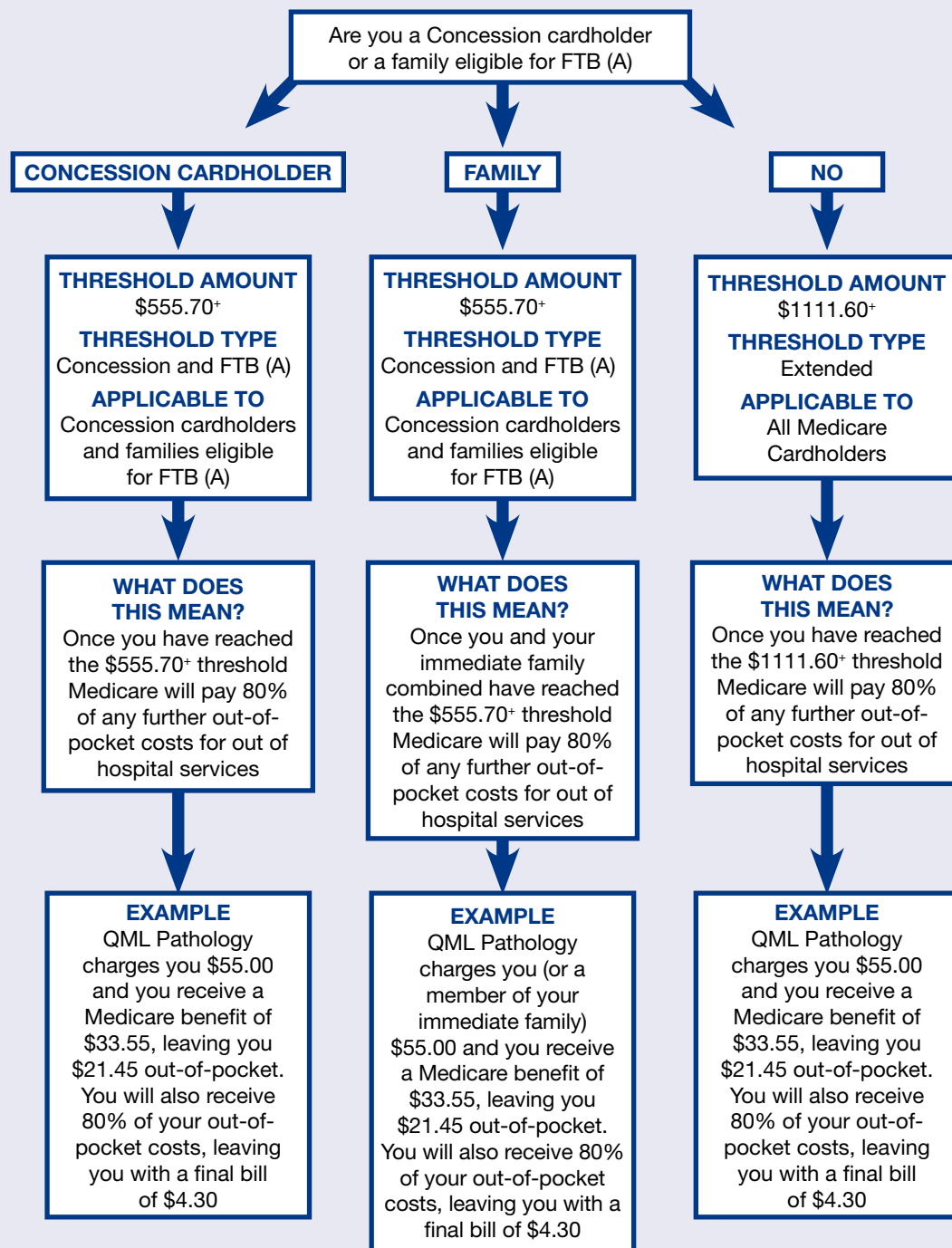
Gap amount - the difference between the Medicare benefit and the schedule fee.

Medicare benefit - the rebate you receive from the government for the medical service you've paid for. This is usually 85% of the schedule fee.

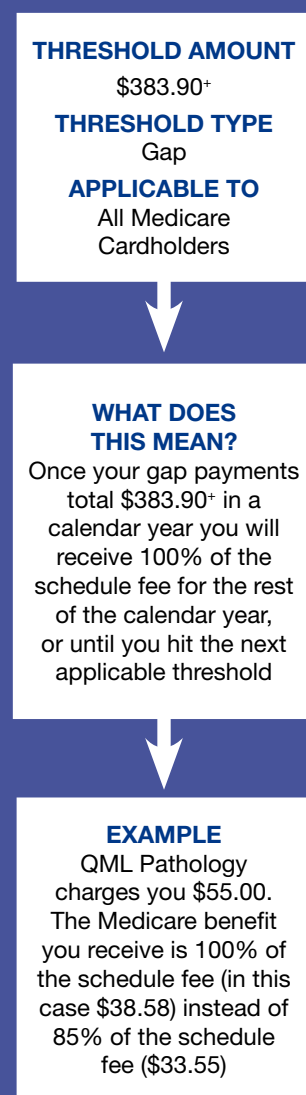
Out-of-pocket costs - the difference between the Medicare benefit and the amount that your healthcare provider charges you.

Schedule fee - a fee for service set by the Australian Government, not the fee charged by your healthcare provider. Often higher than the Medicare benefit allocated for the service.

SAFETY NET THRESHOLD



GAP THRESHOLD



*This figure is adjusted in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) on 1 January each year.