

## 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](http://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](http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au) and register online.
- Phone 13 20 11.

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*Specialists in Private Pathology  
since the 1920s*



## Pathology and the Medicare Safety Net



## Medicare Safety Net Thresholds as at 1 January 2011

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.

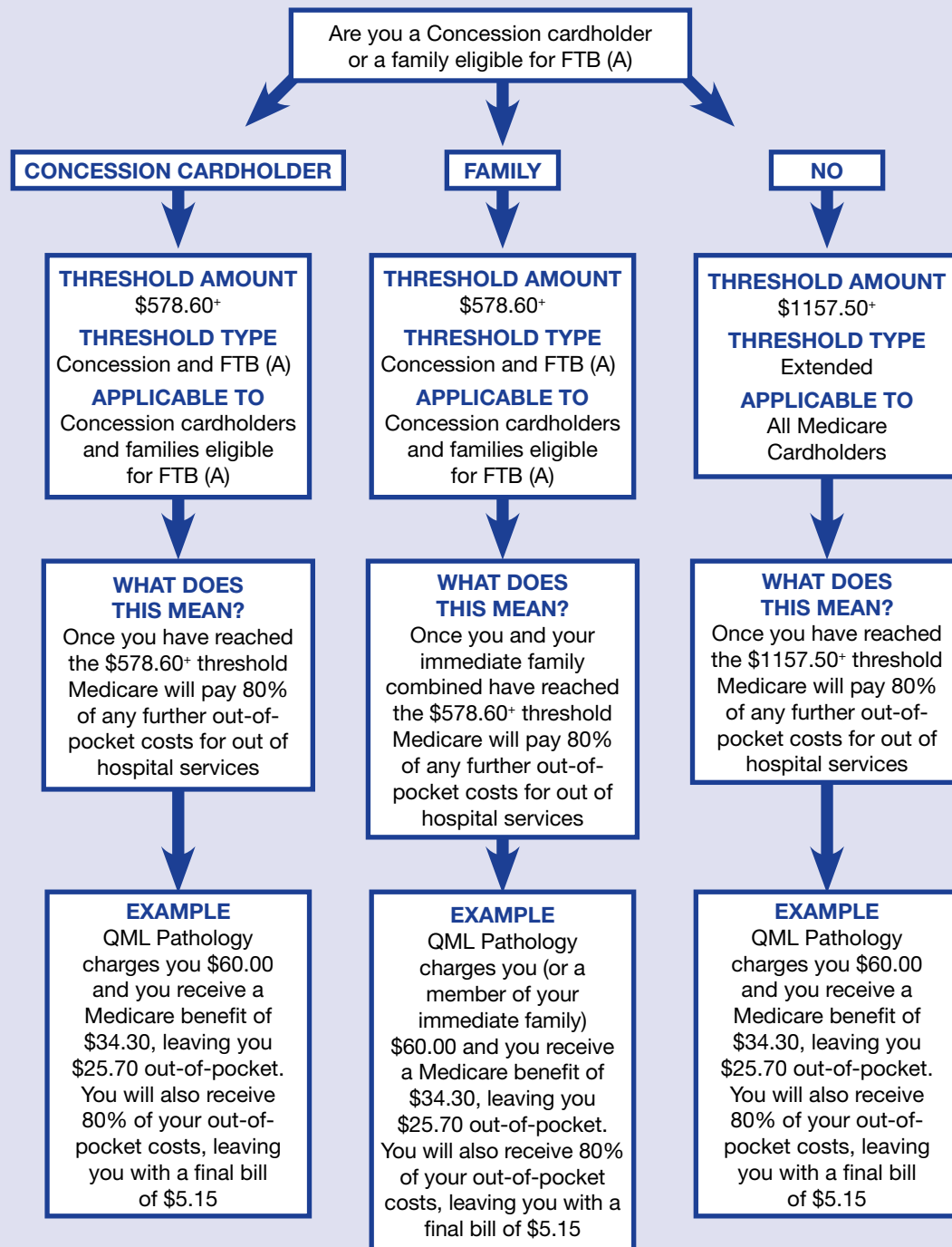
**Gap amount** - the difference between the Medicare benefit and the schedule fee.

**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

**THRESHOLD AMOUNT**  
\$399.60+  
**THRESHOLD TYPE**  
Gap  
**APPLICABLE TO**  
All Medicare Cardholders

**WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?**  
Once your gap payments total \$399.60+ in a calendar year you will receive 100% of the schedule fee for the rest of the calendar year, or until you hit the next applicable threshold

**EXAMPLE**  
QML Pathology charges you \$60.00. The Medicare benefit you receive is 100% of the schedule fee (in this case \$40.35) instead of 85% of the schedule fee (\$34.30)

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