

Health Records Regulations 2012

Information sheet

Increase in fees for access to health information

The fees which organisations are able to charge to individuals seeking access to their health information are set by the *Health Records Regulations 2012*.

The *Health Records Regulations 2012* began operation on Wednesday 12 September 2012, and the fees for access to health information increased from that date.

The review process

In February 2012, the Department of health consulted with hospitals, day procedure centres, general practitioners, the AMA, Royal District Nursing Service, Consumers Health Forum, and legal practitioners. This consultation informed the development of draft regulations and a regulatory impact statement (RIS). Public comments and submissions were sought by the Department on the proposed regulations.

New fees

The new fee caps are summarised in the table below. The new fee caps are expressed in 'fee units', the value of which is determined each year by the Treasurer under the *Monetary Units Act 2004*. This allows the fee cap to increase each year in line with general cost increases.

Item	Former fee cap	New fee cap	Change or not
Items 1 & 2 (Sched 1): Time for supervising inspection or viewing of records	\$5 per quarter hour	1.2 fee unit (currently equal to \$15.00) per half hour or part thereof**	yes
Use of equipment not in organisation's possession	Reasonable costs incurred	Reasonable costs incurred	No change
Item 3: (a)&(b) Copy of health information to individual	20 cents per page for A4 black & white pages Reasonable costs otherwise	20 cents per page for A4 black & white Reasonable costs otherwise	No change
(c) Time for assessing & collating health information	\$20	2.5 fee units (\$31.30)	yes
(d) Transporting records held off site	\$10	1.2 fee units (\$15.00)	yes
(e) Postage	Nil	Actual postage cost, if request to be posted	This is new
Item 4: Providing an accurate summary of information to individual	Greater of usual consultation fee (if a health service provider) or \$25 per quarter hour, up to \$80	Greater of usual consultation fee (if a health service provider) or 2.9 fee units per quarter hour (\$36.30), up to 9.4 fee units (\$117.80)	yes yes
Item 1 (Sched 2) Copy of health information to another health service provider	20 cents per page for A4 b/w if at least 20 pages Reasonable costs otherwise	20 cents per page for A4 black & white if at least 20 pages Reasonable costs otherwise	No change
Item 2: Summary of health information to another health service provider	Greater of usual consultation fee or \$25 per quarter hour, up to \$80, where the time is at least 30 minutes	Greater of usual consultation fee or 2.9 fee unit per quarter hour (\$36.30), up to 9.4 fee units (\$117.80), where the time taken to prepare is at least 30 minutes	yes yes
Regulation 7: Functions of nominated health service provider under s. 42 of the Act	Reasonable costs not exceeding \$40 per quarter hour up to \$200	Reasonable costs not exceeding 4.7 fee units per quarter hour (\$58.90) up to 23.6 fee units (\$295.70)	yes yes

(* The indicative fee amounts reflect that fee unit values are rounded to 1 decimal point, and that in calculating fee amounts, fees are rounded to the nearest 10 cents. The **fee unit value** of **\$12.53** applies to 2012-13 and has been used in the above calculations.

** The current fee for supervision is expressed in terms of quarter hours. However, in order to make use of the Monetary Units Act, the fee units must be expressed as 1 fee unit or more. Therefore this has changed to be expressed in terms of a half-hour, although the Regulations provide for charges to be made in quarter-hour increments.)

Item 3 above (providing a copy) is most relevant, as most individuals who are seeking access request a copy of their records. Note the following:

- Time for **assessing & collating** health information – the new fee is 2.5 fees units, which from 1 July 2012 is \$31.30 (plus GST);
- The fee for **making a copy** of health information to the individual will remain the same at 20 cents per A4 black and white page (plus GST) and will not be indexed every year.