**Medical Costs Finder (MCF) website**

The enhanced [Medical Costs Finder (MCF) website](http://www.medicalcostsfinder.health.gov.au) was launched on 8 December.

The MCF is an online tool developed by the Department of Health and Aged Care. The tool educates consumers about private health and helps them, together with their doctors, to understand the typical costs of commonly sought in-hospital and out-of-hospital specialist services. The objective is for consumers to form reasonable expectations around costs, provides them with greater confidence about private healthcare, and contributes to informed and shared decision-making about their care.

Building on the previous iteration of the website, specialists can now publish their practice locations, indicative fees and any gap arrangements for selected services on the enhanced website which were agreed with the relevant craft group nominees.

The selected services are from the following specialties: breast surgery, abdominal and gastrointestinal surgery, gastroenterology, urology, plastic surgery, obstetrics and gynaecology, otolaryngology (head and neck surgery), ophthalmology, orthopaedic surgery, cardiology and cardiothoracic surgery. Additional specialties will be included over time, based on feedback.

Participation is voluntary and helps improve cost transparency for patients. The public confidence that comes with transparency is a good thing for medical specialists and the health system as a whole.

If you’re interested in participating as a specialist, you can sign up or login to the [Medical Costs Finder Portal](https://medicalcostsfinder.health.gov.au/medical-specialists) or access it via [PRODA](https://proda.humanservices.gov.au).

To support specialists and increase their awareness about the MCF, the Department is hosting a series of [digital drop-in sessions](https://www.health.gov.au/resources/webinars/drop-in-session-medical-costs-finder) in December (see below), and in the new year.

The December sessions are:

* 13 December, 7 pm - 8 pm
* 15 December, 12 pm - 1 pm
* 19 December, 7 pm - 8 pm
* 21 December, 7 am - 8 am.

The focus of the Department’s communications for the first months following soft launch is specialists – providing them with the information and the time they need to appreciate the value of the MCF to patients and decide to participate. More prominent communications to consumers is expected to increase from March / April 2023.