



**Our Medicare Rebate Loophole Report**  
**and**  
**10 Things that Might be Concerning you**  
**about Breast Lift and Augmentation**  
**Courtesy of The Breast Clinic**

Thanks for downloading our 'Medicare Rebate' PDF.

We hope it helps answer any important questions you may have.

If there is anything else, or you need to book an appointment, please email us directly on [info@thebreastclinic.com.au](mailto:info@thebreastclinic.com.au) or call 02 8355 2170

### **How Did This Rebate Come About?**

A recent NSW government legislation banned breast reduction surgery (read on this applies to breast lift and some types of augmentation too) from being performed in a public hospital, as they deem the procedure as cosmetic.

This ruling essentially means that all breast reduction surgery can only be done in a private hospital or accredited day surgery.

This is a rather harsh stance as most women are very worthy candidates for breast reduction surgery for functional reasons to help their neck and back pain.

### **Am I Eligible For the Rebate?**

What most people don't know is that many cosmetic procedures have a medicare rebate when performed by a specialist plastic surgeon.

This is for ALL AUSTRALIAN RESIDENTS. Even if you don't have private health insurance you are eligible for this reimbursement.

Obviously having insurance helps with the financial burden of doctor's fees and hospital costs, but it is good to know that even without insurance you can receive a medicare rebate.

### **How Do I Claim My Operation Through Medicare?**

If you are registered online with medicare your plastic surgeon can claim the rebate for you and your bank account will be credited OR you can take your invoice to a medicare branch and claim your rebate that way.

### **So How Much Do I Get?**

Below is a list of all the cosmetic procedures that have medicare rebates.

Procedure	Item Number	Medicare Rebate
Breast Augmentation	nil	nil
Bilateral Breast Reduction	45520 x2	\$1013.05
Abdominoplasty (tummy tuck)	30177	\$739
Tubular breast reconstruction	45559x2	\$1278.90
Breast Augmentation for asymmetry (one side)	45524	\$556.25
Breast Implants for breast deformity	45528 x2	\$834.30
Breast Lift for asymmetry (one side)	45556	\$574.55
Breast Lift (after pregnancy one side) <i>Youngest child must be between 1-7 years old</i>	45557 (one side)	\$574.55
Breast Lift (after pregnancy two sides) <i>Youngest child must be between 1-7 years old</i>	45558	\$861.75

Why dont you give The Breast Clinic a call today on 02 8355 2170 to book a consultation - our Practice Manager can take care of the entire medicare rebate process for you.

If you want to ask us a question directly, please drop us a line on [info@thebreastclinic.com.au](mailto:info@thebreastclinic.com.au).

Thanks.

The Breast Clinic.

PS As a bonus, we have answered some of the most common 'Breast Surgery' FAQs below, we hope they help.

### **1. How much does a consultation cost and what do you get?**

A Breast Lift/Augmentation consultation costs \$250 for an hour. This also includes all other subsequent pre-op visits and post-op checks for the entirety of your care.

This price includes the consultation, plus an additional hour with our practice nurse (should you proceed with the operation) who will go through post-op garment fitting and medication optimisation i.e. what to take before and after the procedure.

### **2. Lets talk total cost for a breast augmentation?**

If you are having a breast augmentation then insurance companies won't cover any of the cost.

So you are looking around **\$8,000** all up (including GST)

This includes:

- Theatre fees at a private hospital under full general anaesthetic not twilight sedation.
- Anaesthetists' fee
- Surgical fees and follow up
- Surgical assistants' fee
- Implant cost and life time warranty. Using either Mentor or Allergan implants. The top 2 manufacturers in the world.

### **3. What if you need a breast lift and an implant?**

The fee for a breast lift and implant is **\$10,000** all up (including GST).

Should you have private insurance and your youngest child is less than 7, then you are in luck as most insurers cover a breast lift. This reduces your total out of

pocket costs by 25%. So that's a breast lift and implant for around \$7500. You won't find that offer anywhere else.

If you don't have insurance, don't fret as medicare does provide a rebate of \$861.75.

#### **4. I had my breast augmentation overseas or by another doctor and want them fixed?**

At The Breast Clinic we get this question a lot, so we have decided to come up with a simple package price of **\$12,000**.

If you have private health insurance, you can expect to receive around 25% back from your insurer.

#### **5. How long will I need to recover?**

A week off work is sensible. If you have children then plan on having extra help for that week.

If you have the implant above the muscle the recovery is slightly quicker than if you go below the muscle.

Don't be confused by gimmicks that surgeons use, such as "we provide rapid recovery surgery". The service they provide is no different to what every other accredited Australian based plastic surgeon and anaesthetist offer.

#### **6. When can I return to the gym?**

You can return to low impact cardio work after 1 week. We would not recommend returning to weight training for at least 4 weeks.

#### **7. How much pain will I have?**

The first feeling you will get after the operation is tightness, because now you have implants sitting on your chest augmenting your breast envelope. This doesn't last long as you become used to them pretty quickly.

We infiltrate local anaesthetic at the start of the case which gives you pain relief for 4-6 hours post-op. After that our expert anaesthetists prescribes a sensible and easy to follow medication regime which will keep any pain you may have under control.

If you have the implant above the muscle you will pretty much have no pain. If the implant is under the muscle you may experience some pain, but this is very minimal.

#### **8. Can I breast feed?**

Yes. All the best available scientific evidence suggests that it does not influence one way or the other, your ability to breastfeed.

Nor does having breast implants affect the quality of your milk should you decide to breast feed your child.

### **9. How long will the implants last?**

Two factors determine how long an implant lasts:

1. The Implant: We are lucky to have such high standards in Australia. This ensures all implants are extremely durable and of the highest quality. You will eventually develop a capsule around an implant and require a new implant. The problem is no-one can predict when this will occur. But most women get their implants changed every 10-15 years.
2. You: After pregnancy and breast feeding your breasts change. If you have breast implants prior to bearing children, then it is likely (not inevitable) that you may need a breast lift after you have finished breast feeding your last child.

### **10. Are Breast Implants safe?**

Yes - no medical device has gone through the scrutiny that breast implants have gone through and for good reason too, this is cosmetic surgery not life saving surgery. It is reassuring that all the scientific data suggests that breast implants:

- Don't increase your chance of getting breast cancer (in fact women with implants have a lower rate of breast cancer)
- Don't increase the likelihood of suffering from systemic diseases such as rheumatoid
- Don't affect the ability to detect breast cancer
- Don't affect your ability to breast feed

### **I am interested, how should I proceed?**

If you are considering breast augmentation then feel free to make an appointment to see us at a location that is most convenient to you.

Call us today on 02 8355 2170 or email [info@thebreastclinic.com.au](mailto:info@thebreastclinic.com.au)