



What does it mean when my specialist asks “will you see a registrar?”

“You can have full confidence that the registrar, with the supervising specialist, will aim to provide quality care.”

What is a registrar?

Registrars are fully qualified, experienced doctors who are doing extra training to become specialists.

How does this affect me?

As a private patient, you may be asked to involve a registrar in your care. You can say “yes” or “no” to having a registrar assist with your treatment. Your specialist will supervise the registrar’s involvement in your care.

Having a registrar involved in your care helps their learning and development. You can support the development of future specialists. This will benefit the community and future generations.

Do I have to agree?

It’s your decision. You can say “no” from the beginning. You can change your mind at any time. To help you decide, you may want to ask your specialist:

- What involvement will the registrar have in my care?
- How will the registrar be supervised?
- How will the specialist stay involved in my care?

Will my specialist still be involved in my care?

Yes. Your specialist will supervise the registrar. Your specialist will decide how best to use the registrar’s skills to make sure you get good quality care.

The registrar’s involvement will vary from patient to patient. As qualified doctors, registrars can take your history, order tests, make a diagnosis, provide treatment, make referrals and write reports. Depending on your medical needs, they may do this without help or with the assistance of the supervising specialist. The specialist should always be available to help out as needed.



Australian Government

Department of Health and Ageing

Why is this happening?

The Australian Government has set up the Expanded Specialist Training Program¹ to provide new opportunities for registrars to do some training outside the traditional teaching hospital system.

This is to meet people's changing expectations and needs. In the past many specialists worked out of public hospitals. People now want to visit more specialists in private settings like private hospitals, day surgeries, private clinics and community settings like community health centres.

The Expanded Specialist Training Program provides training for registrars so they can better:

- see to patient needs;
- treat the range of medical problems they are likely to see in their jobs; and
- work in a variety of places.

Will it cost me more?

No, it is unlikely to cost you more to see a registrar than it would to see your specialist. However, medical practitioners including registrars may set their fees higher than the Medicare Benefit Schedule (MBS) fee set by the government. It is a good idea to ask your specialist or registrar about the cost before you make an appointment or start treatment.

Would you like more information about the program?

Information about the Expanded Specialist Training Program is available at: www.health.gov.au/ExpandedSpecialistTraining or E-mail us at: expanded.specialist.training@health.gov.au

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By agreeing to involve a registrar in your care, you can help strengthen Australia's health system.”

¹ Including the Outer Metropolitan Specialist Trainee Program.