

Friday, 25 June 2004

Change of Practice • Dr Mark Donohoe

Dear Natural Healthcare Practitioner,

I am writing to let you know that I have changed my medical practice to a referral-based practice, and to ask for your support by way of referral of clients who may benefit from medical assessment, investigations or prescriptions to improve their outcomes.

I have worked in primary care medical practice for the past 21 years, and have been committed to Natural Healthcare / Complementary Medicine throughout that time.

My current work as president of the Natural Health Care Alliance (NHCA) makes it difficult for me to continue to provide the time and care that my patients require. I will *not* be taking over the care of any clients you refer to me, and all clients referred to me will be returned to you with copies of investigations, a confidential summary letter, and suggestions with appropriate evidence. The exception, of course, would be for conditions that demand urgent medical attention.

The summary letter is provided to your client *only* if you ask me to do so. Treatment is changed only at your request, or if urgent medical intervention is required.

My aim is to provide a service for you, so that your patients can access medical services and products while remaining under your care. I am convinced that a trusting and co-operative relationship between medical and natural healthcare practitioners provides the best health outcomes.

I am happy to provide specific medical services including:

- medical history, examination and opinion;
- medical pathology and imaging (Medicare and private);
- treatments requiring injections (B12, IVC, etc);
- medical prescriptions (PBS and private);
- allergy assessment; and
- appropriate referral to medical specialists.

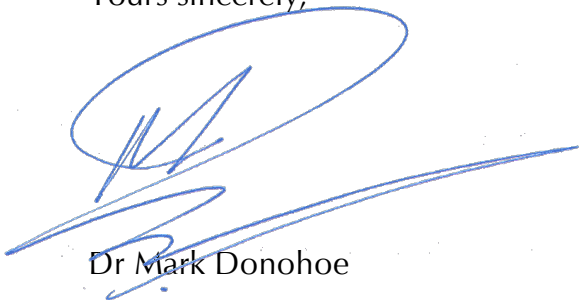
Certain procedural tests and treatments, such as intravenous vitamin C, are performed for me at the Your Health Treatment Clinic in Manly. These will only be done with your approval or at your request, and with the same guarantees that your client will be returned to your care when the test or treatment is finished.

Please note that Medicare and PBS subsidies apply only to a restricted number of investigations, treatments and prescription items.

Please have a look at the enclosed referral form. One side is a simple referral with room for your request and information for your client. The other side is more detailed and specific. You only need to fill in one side of the form, and give this to your client. I would appreciate copies of any significant previous test results as well, to avoid duplication and unnecessary expense. Please call if your client requires an urgent appointment.

I look forward to working with you in the care of your clients. Please give me a call at my practice (02 9968-1087) Tuesday to Friday if you need more information.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Mark Donohoe

Information About My Practice

My training is in General Practice, and in Nutritional Medicine and Environmental Medicine. The prime focuses of my practice to date has been the diagnosis and/or management of:

- chronic fatigue syndrome and fibromyalgia;
- chemical injury (pesticides, mercury, petrochemicals etc)
- vaccine-related injuries;
- allergies, sensitivities and intolerances;
- multiple chemical sensitivities; and
- safe pharmaceutical reduction and medication rationalisation.

My rooms are located at 129A Raglan St, Mosman in NSW. Telephone consultations and internet consultations can be arranged for sick or distant patients. Extra referral pads are available from Suzanne on 02 9968-1087.

Consultations are typically focused on a particular task, around 25 minutes duration for a fee of \$125. If more complex consultations are required, they are billed at \$250 per hour. This may occur where a complete case review is required, or a preliminary diagnostic work-up or management plan for a complex medical condition is needed.

The typical Medicare rebate is usually about \$40, although it may increase for some under the new Medicare Plus program. Certain medical pathology required for the diagnosis and care of the patient is Medicare rebatable, while other pathology is privately billed. Certain prescriptions are subsidised by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS), while some non-PBS prescriptions may attract private health fund rebates. Medical services are GST-free.

Telephone and internet consultations are not currently Medicare rebatable, although they are GST-free. These allow for follow up to be carried out with minimal patient inconvenience.

Information About Me

I graduated from the Faculty of Medicine at Sydney University in 1980, and I have worked in private general practice since 1983.

I have specialised in environmental and nutritional medicine for seventeen years. I am a Fellow of the Australasian College of Nutritional and Environmental Medicine (FACNEM), a member of the Australian Integrative Medicine Association (AIMA), a member of the National Scientific Advisory Committee on Complementary Medicine (NSACCM), and was a member of the NSW Health Claims and Consumer Protection Advisory Committee (HCCPAC) in 2002-4.

In 1994, I was elected founding president of the Australian Comprehensive Medicine Association (ACMA). Its mission was to foster the incorporation of safe and effective complementary and alternative medicine modalities into medical practices in Australia.

From 1998 to 2002 I was on the editorial board of FACT (Focus on Alternative & Complementary Therapies), an international medical journal reviewing research and evidence in the field of CAM.

I am currently honoured to be president of the Natural Health Care Alliance (www.nhca.com), a national umbrella body representing the Natural Healthcare / Complementary Medicine profession. We are committed to supporting and representing natural healthcare practitioners and the profession, and creating a true *health-care* model that is sustainable and effective.