

CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE**VICAR GENERAL**

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24 June 1997**Mr & Mrs A Foster****REDACTED****OAKLEIGH VIC 3166****Dear Mr & Mrs Foster,**

I refer to your various discussions with Sue Sharkey, and write in an attempt to resolve the issue of outstanding accounts.

I note that on 3 April 1997 I wrote to you indicating that before Carelink would be in a position to consider your claims, there were issues that Professor Ball needed to clarify with Dr Schwarz. I understand that last week you authorised Dr Schwarz to speak with Professor Ball but that as Dr Schwarz has been away, that conversation has not yet occurred.

Nevertheless, I would like to progress your claims as far as possible. I do so on the assumption that Professor Ball will, ultimately, be satisfied by his discussions with Dr Schwarz, and on the understanding that the proposals made in this letter relate only to those invoices already submitted to Carelink. In the long term, continued funding and support from Carelink remains subject to regular independent assessments and to the Independent Commissioner concluding his enquiries and making appropriate findings.

I understand from Sue Sharkey that the invoices fall into a number of categories, and I set out below what is proposed in respect of each of them.

Medical invoices - Dr Schwarz, Dr Coleman and Dr Harrison

The Archdiocese considers that these accounts are payable by Medicare. I am awaiting confirmation of this from the Health Insurance Commission. Once this confirmation is received, the appropriate procedure will be to claim medical accounts on Medicare, and to submit the account and Medicare rebate to Carelink, who will pay any "gap".

In this instance, I am authorising Carelink to pay those accounts from Dr Schwarz that you have submitted to Carelink. I am doing so on the basis that once Medicare confirms the appropriate procedure, you will claim the Medicare rebate and refund this to Carelink.

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Counselling invoices - Ms Hallam

These accounts will be paid by Carelink.

Albert Road Clinic

Sue Sharkey tells me that with your authorisation, she has discussed the Clinic's outstanding invoices with them. The Clinic informed Ms Sharkey that in the past, these invoices were paid by HBA. The amount now outstanding is considerable, and as they were incurred without authorisation or an independent assessment, they will be returned to you by Ms Sharkey for forwarding to HBA. If there is a gap between the HBA payment and the invoice, the invoice should be resubmitted to Carelink.

Miscellaneous

There is one account from the Monash Medical Centre which will be dealt with in the same way as Dr Schwarz's accounts.

I understand that there are some invoices relating to cancelled bookings. In general it would not be reasonable to expect Carelink to meet such costs unless the cancellation was for good reason.

~~It is unfortunate that there have been delays in resolving these issues but, as you know, the assistance of Carelink is contingent on compliance with Carelink's procedures and requirements. Although these requirements have not yet been satisfied, I am approving the steps set out above in the hope that this will contribute to Emma's recovery.~~

Yours sincerely,



Rev. Monsignor Denis J. Hart
Vicar General