

Trusted information at the point of care

Seeing another GP for a special health procedure

Your GP is referring you to another GP, to help you with a particular health issue. You may wonder why this is happening.

Your GP is referring you to one of these GPs so you can benefit from their expertise. An alternative would be for you to pay for an appointment with a private specialist.

Some GPs have particular knowledge of and experience in certain health procedures or specific conditions. These include:

- inserting an IUD, Mirena, or other intra-uterine device
- removing skin lesions
- sleep studies
- steroid injections
- skin or dermatology concerns (e.g., acne, psoriasis)

What will the GP treat me for?

The other GP will only see you for the issue your usual GP has referred you for. For most issues, they will see you just once, for example if you have a specific procedure. If you have been referred to another GP for treatment of a specific condition, you may be required to visit the other GP several times.

Will I have to pay?

You may have to pay a fee for the consultation with a different GP. It may be rebatable by Medicare, or you may have to pay a full charge. Ask what you will have to pay when you make the appointment with the other GP.

What happens after I've seen the other GP?

After the GP has treated you, they will send a letter to your usual GP, outlining any tests you have had or any medications they have prescribed. If you need follow-up (such as wound dressing) your usual GP will likely do this. This means your usual GP can continue treating you.

If you need another specialist appointment for further treatment, your usual GP will assist with any future referrals.

Information provided by Canterbury DHB, New Zealand and approved by ACT & Southern NSW HealthPathways.