

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

12 November 2012

Question no: 7

Topic: INQUIRY INTO MEDICARE FUNDING FOR HYPERBARIC OXYGEN TREATMENT

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Is there any estimation of what proportion of patients may continue with the treatment (paying the full cost) and what would be their total costs for an average course of treatment?

Answer:

It is not possible to provide an estimation of the proportion of patients who may continue with HBOT treatment as this would be a decision determined by each individual patient.

With regard to the total cost for an average course of treatment, the Australian Government has no authority to determine the fees charged by doctors or their billing practices. Medical practitioners are free to determine the value of their services, and the actual fee charged is a matter between the doctor and the patient.