**Fees**We are a Mixed Billing practice (effective from 1 January 2024). Please see our Billing Document for more information.
Fees are payable on the day of consultation.
In the event of a patient not paying for their consultation on the day, the patient will be unable to make further appointments until the outstanding fee is paid.

**Did Not Attend/Did Not Arrive Policy**
From 1 January 2024 the practice will implement a Did Not Attend / Did Not Arrive (DNA) Policy applicable to both Concessional and Non-Concessional patients. The current Did Not Attend /Did Not Arrive fee is $45.00.

There is no Medicare rebate for a Did Not Attend/Did Not Arrive fee.

TranquiliT HC is an appointment-based medical practice. If you book an appointment at TranquiliT HC you are agreeing to the Did Not Attend/Did Not Arrive policy. The term “Did Not Attend/Arrive” (DNA) means when a patient does not attend for a booked appointment and does not contact the practice with at least 30 minutes in advance of the booked appointment time to cancel or change that appointment.  Please read below for our policy, the reasons we have this policy and how we try to help patients manage their appointments.

A booked appointment system does not necessarily suit all people. We recommend that anyone who does not wish to be a part of our appointment-based system seek treatment at a walk-in / non-appointment-based service.

Patients who do not attend an appointment have this noted in their medical record as “Did Not Attend/Arrive” or the abbreviation “DNA”.

The policy applies to intermittent Did Not Attend/Arrive appointments by the same patient, meaning that the total number is considered not just consecutive Did Not Arrives/Attends.

1. The first time a patient Does Not Arrive/Attend there is no charge, unless the consultation was for a Long Consultation, a New Patient appointment. The patient will be advised of the practice’s Did Not Attend/Arrive policy. The Did Not Attend/Arrive will be noted in the patient’s medical record.
2. In the event of a second and subsequent DNA the practice will charge the patient a $45.00 fee and Did Not Attend/Arrive will be noted in the patient’s medical record.
3. In the event of a third DNA the practice reserves the right to decline to book new appointments for the patient until the cancellation fees have been paid. This will not apply to emergency appointments.
4. In the event of multiple, unpaid DNA fees the patient’s health care provider and practice management will discuss and decide whether the patient is able to continue to attend the practice. The practice or the health care provider can terminate the provider – patient relationship if there is continuous patient non-compliance with presenting for scheduled appointments.
5. In the event of a DNA for a Long Consultation, or New Patient appointment the practice will charge the patient a $45.00 fee and the DNA will be noted in the patient’s medical record if one has been created. In these cases the practice reserves the right to decline to book a new appointment for the patient until the fee has been paid.

There are occasionally exceptional circumstances that prevent patients from being able to attend their appointments and Did Not Attend/Arrive fees may be waivered at the practice’s discretion if those circumstances are brought to the practice’s attention.

**Why we have this policy**
We often have a large waiting list of people wishing to see our providers. If a patient misses an appointment with short notice, or gives no notice that they cannot attend, then this means we do not have enough time to offer the appointment to another patient on the waiting list. The issue of Did Not Attend/Arrive is a continued frustration for both patients waiting to get an appointment with a provider and for those working in the practice.

The effect of DNAs are:
\* The vacant appointment slot could have been used by another patient who needs to see a provider.
\* DNAs add to the overall waiting time for appointments.
\* If the practice gives the patient who did not attend an appointment, or cancelled their appointment late, a second appointment, then this new appointment also contributes to the overall wait for others to see a provider.
\* The time and staff required to follow-up and rebook patients diverts the practice team from other duties.
\* DNAs contribute to the clinics operating costs, which the practice then has to absorb. The higher the operating costs for a practice the higher the Mixed Billing fees become.

**What we do to try and help:**
\* We have different ways for patients to amend or appointments. This can be done in person, on the phone, via the Best Health Booking app.

\* If we have a patient’s mobile number a text message will be sent prior to their scheduled appointment time. Therefore, it is important to let us know if you have changed your mobile telephone number.

**Communication Policy
Telephoning Providers:**Messages can be left for providers during normal Clinic hours. Our providers do not normally take calls while they are with a patient. The provider will return your call in between patients, or at the end of the clinic session.
**Emails:**We ask patients to provider full name, DOB, and address to identify themselves prior to conversing via email. Patients accept that conversing via email relating to confidential medical information may not be secure.
**Text Messages:**If you have provided us with your mobile phone number we may send you a text (SMS) message in order to try and contact you.

**Results, Recalls, National, State and Territory Reminder Systems**We do give results over the phone or by email, however if you would like to book an appointment to discuss your results, this is also available.
It is your responsibility to get your medical results and reports.  It is also your responsibility to inform us of changes to your contact details and keep your contact details up to date.

**Prescribing Policy**We do not prescribe drugs of dependence to patients.

It is also our policy to consult Queensland’s real-time prescription monitoring system ‘QScript’ and our providers may also phone Medicare’s Prescription Shopping Information Service before prescribing drugs of dependence under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. These Information Services will advise if you have already been prescribed the requested medications. Please do not take offence.
Our providers have a one prescriber policy for prescribing any drugs of dependence. (Special arrangements will be made if the usual prescriber is on leave).

**Patient Agreement**Patients are asked to sign a Patient Agreement. This is to give consent for the appropriate use and restricted disclosure of your personal health information in the course of your health care. This consent allows those involved in your health care access to the information necessary to continue the high standard of health service you have come to expect of us. If a patient has records held at a hospital and wishes for a copy of those records be sent to us, we are required to fax a signed Patient Agreement to the hospital records department. Please refer to the Patient Agreement at Reception for detailed information.

**Privacy and duty of care**Your medical record is a confidential document. It is the policy of this practice to maintain security of personal health information at all times and to ensure that this information is only available to authorised members of staff. Our Practice Privacy Policy is available on our website <https://tranquilithc.com.au/important-documents>

**Dealing with us anonymously**You have the right to deal with us anonymously or under a pseudonym unless it is impracticable for us to do so or unless we are required or authorised by law to only deal with identified individuals. If you wish to be treated as a patient anonymously or under a pseudonym you will need to pay in full yourself on the day of your treatment for your consultation(s) and you will not receive a Medicare rebate. This is because we are only able to bill consultations to Medicare for patients who provide us with Medicare-recognised and registered details.

**Waiting Times**Our Staff work hard to provide a service that runs as smoothly as possible. When there are waiting times it is usually due to patients needing more time with the doctor than they realised when they made their appointment. This necessarily means that scheduled patients will experience some wait to be seen. If you have been waiting for more than 15 minutes, we ask that you come SMS the clinic mobile to let us know. Please help us by keeping your contact details up to date.

**Code of Conduct**Our staff treat patients with respect and expect to be treated with respect in return. We understand that it can be difficult for some people to manage illness, pain and worry. We ask that while you are talking with us on the telephone, that you communicate with us if you are finding something too difficult to manage. Our staff and patients have the right to be in a safe environment and for this reason we do not accept antisocial or intimidating behaviour, physical violence or verbal abuse.

**Transfer of Patient files**Your patient file cannot be transferred to other surgeries without the patient’s or guardian’s signed permission. If you wish to transfer a copy of your medical records from this surgery to another surgery, please ask your new surgery to send a formal request with your signature. The administrative cost to prepare your medical records for your new surgery is $40.00 (fee current as 01 January 2024).

**Policy on the retention and destruction of health records**
TranquiliT HC securely destroys medical records that have not been accessed for specific time periods - medical records where on the last entry the patient was 18 years of age or over are kept until 7 years from the date of that last entry.
A secure register is kept of all patient files that have been destroyed.

**How can you access and / or correct your personal information at our practice?**
You have the right to request access to / updating of / correction of your personal information if we have this in a health record. This right applies to records that we hold and not to those which we have deleted in accordance with our policy outlined above about record retention and deletion. If you wish to have access to and/or correct your personal information we require you to put your request in writing to our Practice Manager who will respond within 30 days from receipt of your request. The administrative cost to prepare your medical records is $40.00 (fee current as 01 January 2024). Our practice will take reasonable steps to correct your personal information where the information is not accurate or up to date. From time-to-time, we will ask you to verify your personal information held by our practice is correct and up to date.

**Complaints and Comments**Please address in writing to:
TranquiliT HC Director, TranquiliT HC, PO BOX 4281 RACEVIEW, QLD 4305.
TranquiliT HC aims to respond to formal complaints within 21 business days.
Alternatively, please contact the Office of the Health Ombudsman, telephone 133646, website:  [www.oho.qld.gov.au](http://www.oho.qld.gov.au/) or for matters related to privacy contact the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC), telephone: 1300363992, website: [www.oaic.gov.au](http://www.oaic.gov.au/)
or to the Office of the Information Commissioner Queensland, telephone: (07) 3234 7373, website:  [www.oic.qld.gov.au](http://www.oic.qld.gov.au/)

**Information accuracy**The information presented here is subject to change without notice. TranquiliT HC staff recommend that you make direct contact with the TranquiliT HC staff or the listed external contacts before acting upon any of this information, particularly concerning costs, opening times and contact details.