

Anaesthetic Information and Informed Financial Consent

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About your Anaesthetic

Most surgeries (and there are a few exceptions), are performed under a General Anaesthetic, which is a state of unconsciousness controlled by an anaesthetist. This is achieved with a combination of intravenous drugs and inhaled gases. Anaesthetists are highly trained in this area and are with you to ensure your safety throughout the procedure.

Anaesthesia is very safe, however, nothing is without risk. It is not possible to predict who will have an anaesthetic complication. If you are young and fit, there is less risk involved than driving a car or crossing the street. Smoking, lack of fitness, increasing age and some medical conditions are associated with potential problems. Common side effects of anaesthesia are not serious: fatigue, nausea & vomiting, sore throat and bruising at the IV site. Serious side effects are extremely rare: dental damage, severe allergic reactions, being awake or aware, nerve & brain damage or even death.

Drugs to treat pain and nausea will be given to you during your anaesthetic. Depending on the type of surgery you have, you may require a combination of over-the-counter analgesics (e.g. paracetamol, ibuprofen), and prescription analgesics (e.g. endone, oxycontin, tramadol) during the first post-operative week.

Informed Financial Consent

There will be an Anaesthetic Fee in addition to any Surgical and Hospital Fees. The Total Anaesthetic Fee is set by me, and is the same, for a given service, of a given duration, at a given time of day – this makes it fair for all patients. It comprises contributions from Medicare, your Private Health Fund and the Gap amount (which is the “out-of-pocket” component, covered by you). The Gap amount is usually \$100 - \$250 for minor procedures and \$250 - \$500 for major procedures and is rarely more than \$500. It may vary *significantly*, depending on which Private Health Insurance you hold (see below), and will be invoiced to you separately.*

If you are uninsured, payment of the Total Anaesthetic Fee is required prior to your surgery. Payment is fully refundable in the event your procedure is cancelled and you no longer require an anaesthetic. You will be able to claim a rebate from Medicare, with your receipt.

Differences in Health Funds

There are a handful of funds (including but not limited to: NIB, Latrobe, HBF, CUA & GmHBA), whose rebate is significantly lower than most other funds. Members of these funds will receive the same Medicare rebate, but a lesser health fund contribution and will therefore incur a larger “gap”.

The pie charts below illustrate the relative contributions that make up the Total Anaesthetic Fee (numbers are approximate):



NB: All information about rebates is intended as a guide only.

* If your health fund is one of NIB, HBF, CUA or GmHBA, the total cost of your anaesthetic will be invoiced directly to you. A receipt will be issued upon payment. This will allow you to claim any rebates from Medicare and your fund.