

Surgical Cost Overview - Private Inpatients

These explanatory notes do not relate to any expenses incurred for your anaesthetist, assisting surgeon (if required), pathology, radiology or hospital charges.

Department of Veterans Affairs / Pensioners / Health Care Card Holders

All counts will be sent directly to the Department of Veterans' Affairs or your health fund for payment.

Private Patients with Private Insurance

Private patients will be given a quote with your "known gap" (out of pocket) expenses. Detailed on your quote will be the expected item number(s) and the cost for your surgery and the rebate provided by your health fund. This amount differs depending upon which health fund you belong to. Unfortunately, patients who are members of NIB, MBF and HCF will receive an account directly as we are unable to "gap bill" patients who are members of these funds under the fund rules. Following your surgery you will receive an account for your "out of pocket" expenses and the remainder of your account will be sent directly to your health fund for payment.

It is the responsibility of each patient to check their level of cover to ensure they are covered for the procedure (and hospital charges) prior to undergoing surgery. Your hospital of choice will also check with your health fund prior to your surgery to ensure you have adequate cover. If you have changed funds or changed your level of cover you may have applicable waiting periods.

We endeavor to quote as accurately as possible but there are circumstances where the item number(s) will be unknown until after your surgery, for example, when the item number is dependent upon the result of pathology or the type of surgery being undertaken is not clear until

the procedure is performed. For example, a proposed laparoscopic procedure which cannot be undertaken and an open procedure is performed, as deemed necessary at the time of your operation. In these circumstances we will quote you for the expected item numbers and contact you with an exact quote immediately following surgery.

For private "in public" patients who have only sufficient cover for public hospital admission, your fund will be direct billed.

Uninsured Patients

Uninsured patients wishing to undergo treatment in a private hospital will be provided with a quote from Dr Thomas and the relevant hospital. All expenses related to your hospital stay **MUST** be paid on admission to hospital. We can also advise you on costs for self paying "private in public" care.

If you have any additional questions regarding this explanation of our billing practices or your account please feel free to speak to my staff prior to your surgery.

