



Dr Joe Blogs

My name is Dr Joe Blogs and I will be your anaesthetist for your upcoming procedure.

Please be reassured that Australian anaesthetists have world class training in anaesthesia, pain control, resuscitation, intensive care and managing medical emergencies, so there is no safer place in the world to have an anaesthetic than in Australia.



My Professional History

Following completion of my medical degree I received my specialist qualification from the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists.

I am a regular participant in the Maintenance of Professional Standards Program from the College of Anaesthetists.

My aim is for you to experience as little pain and discomfort as possible after the procedure.

I hope you find the information in this document to be helpful.

Procedure

Foot Surgery (osteotomies, neurectomies etc.)

Fasting

For your own safety, it is important that you follow these instructions.

If your operation is in the morning you must not have anything to eat after 12 midnight. You may drink water up to 2 hours prior to the time you have been asked to attend the hospital.

If your operation is in the afternoon please have a light breakfast prior to 7.30 am. Do not eat or drink anything after this time except for water, which you may continue to drink up to 2 hours prior to the time you have been asked to attend the hospital.

Medications

Please bring all of your medications to hospital.

You should take all your regular medications up to and including the day of your surgery. If you take insulin or tablets to lower your blood sugar please contact me on XXX XXXX XXXX.

Your surgeon may have asked you to stop taking medications that thin your blood. If you are unsure please do not hesitate to ask.

Anaesthetic

After entering the operating room I will place a small needle into your hand or arm. Through this needle I will inject medication which will put you into a carefully controlled state of unconsciousness.

Throughout the operation I will carefully and constantly monitor your bodily functions and adjust the anaesthetic as required. As well as keeping you asleep I will administer pain killers, fluids and medications to prevent nausea and vomiting, if required. You will wake up in the recovery room.

Pain Control ***

A local anaesthetic block will usually be administered. In some cases, I may perform this block under sedation prior to the actual operation. As a result, there will typically be little or no pain when you wake up in the recovery room after the operation. If you do feel some discomfort, pain relievers will be administered.

Back on the general ward, you may require regular tablets, and on occasion stronger pain killers by injection; if so these will be prescribed for you. I will discuss all of this with you on the day of your surgery.

Treatment risks

Anaesthesia today is very safe however there are some risks involved.

The only problems which are at all common are generally of minor or nuisance value, and only temporary. These may include nausea, vomiting, sore throat, cough, or sore joints or muscles.

More severe reactions are possible but are very rare. These may include dental damage, allergic reactions, numbness or weakness of limbs, or awareness of events during surgery. It is even possible to die as a result of an anaesthetic complication but this is so rare that it is not worth any real concern on your part. Driving a car or even walking along a

footpath are in fact, statistically speaking, more dangerous activities.

Anaesthetists' fees

The fee for your anaesthetic is separate to any surgical or hospital fees. In most instances the Medicare and health fund rebates do not cover the whole fee, so an "out of pocket" or "gap" expense will be payable.

Workcover, 3rd party motor vehicle and fully entitled Veterans Affairs patients will have no out of pocket expenses. Discounts apply to pensioners (see below)

If you are a doctor, member of the clergy, or their spouse or dependent please make me aware of this.

The reason for the out of pocket expense is that the available rebates have not kept pace with the increasing cost of running a practice. Medicare and health fund rebates are usually indexed annually but for over 20 years, the increases have been significantly less than inflation, CPI and other measures of practice costs.

The exact fee depends upon the time your operation will take, and is hence an estimate. It could in fact be lower than the estimate provided here.

My fee is less than the fee listed in the Australian Medical Association and the Australian Society of Anaesthetists' schedules, which represent the actual monetary value of the service.

Questions?

If you have any queries at all about your anaesthetic, your recovery period, pain relief, or any pre-existing health problems you have, please feel free to contact me on XXX XXX XXXX.

If you are having a major procedure I would in fact encourage you to meet with me as this allows plenty of time to discuss your anaesthetic and postoperative recovery in a more comfortable, quieter and less stressful environment than a hospital room. Please phone XXX XXXX XXXX to make an appointment.

Even if you are having a minor procedure I am of course happy to meet with you if you wish.

If you have any questions about the fee for your anaesthetic, it is preferable to contact me directly on XXX XXXX XXX, rather than ringing our office staff. I cannot always answer the phone immediately but will return your call when able.

Pensioners and Seniors

If you are an insured patient on a full pension or over the age of 70, your fee will be discounted.

Uninsured Patients

If you are uninsured or self insured, we ask that you pay your entire fee (seen under "Estimated Anaesthetist Fee" in advance. This can be done by phoning XX XXXX XXXX with your credit card details, or by paying in cash directly to me on the day of admission. (Do not pay the hospital cashier - they are entirely separate). You will receive a receipt in the mail after returning home, and this can be used to claim your Medicare rebate.

I regret that failure to pay in advance could result in the cancellation of your surgery.

Cost

ESTIMATED ANAESTHETIST FEE:	\$500.00
LESS YOUR ESTIMATED REBATES:	<u>-\$300.00</u>
ESTIMATED OUT OF POCKET COST:	\$200.00

Please note**ANAESTHETIST'S INVOICE**

Given the nature of the factors taken into account when quoting costs for your treatment , and that several of these factors can not be determined until after the procedure, the anaesthetist fees you are quoted are an estimate only.

HEALTH FUND REBATE FIGURES

The figures provided regarding your health fund rebate are an estimate only. For a more accurate figure, please contact your health fund directly.

Your health fund allows me to use a "known gap" product. They will pay an above-Medicare Schedule rebate whether or not you have a gap to pay. My rooms will send your account to your insurer. They will pay their rebate via electronic transfer of funds. Your gap payment will be sent to you, and can be settled by cheque, payment in person at 24 Smith St (cash or EFTPOS), or by phoning (0X)XXXX XXXX with your credit card details.

I acknowledge I have been provided with an estimate of the costs of my up coming anaesthesia, including estimated rebates and 'Gap' amount payable by me (if applicable). I am satisfied with this information and consent to the costs of the anaesthesia as provided by my anaesthetist.

Patient signature (or responsible person)

Print name

Date: _____

This information is based on:

- Procedure date: 23/07/2009
- Procedure: Foot Surgery (osteotomies, neurectomies etc.)
- Private health insurance: Medibank Private
- Other: NA

If any of the above details are incorrect please contact MediTrust on 1300 367 540, as your Anaesthetist's professional fee information may need to be adjusted.

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