

ABOUT YOUR ANAESTHETIC

This SIGNED form needs to be returned as soon as possible to the Anaesthetist's office (MBM)

Contact details for my office at MBM are provided below

As I will be your Anaesthetist for your surgery I would like to provide you with important information prior to your procedure.

(a) What are the risks associated with anaesthesia?

(b) How long should I fast before my operation?

(c) Should I take my regular medication?

(d) What is my anaesthetic likely to cost?

(e) What is the quality assurance for my anaesthetic?

(a) Risks associated with anaesthesia

Modern anaesthesia is generally very safe – in fact there is more risk of harm driving a motor vehicle. However, risks do exist, and although usually temporary some may cause long-term problems. Most serious consequences of surgery and anaesthesia generally occur in those who are already seriously ill.

Common but usually mild side-effects

- Bruising at needle site
- Sore / dry throat and lips
- Nausea, vomiting, headache
- Discomfort locally at injection sites
- Blood from nose after dental anaesthesia

Less common but manageable side-effects

- Muscle aches / pains
- Severe nausea and vomiting
- Severe headache
- Mild allergic reactions (itching and/or skin rash)

Uncommon but serious short term complications

- Damage to teeth, throat or vocal cords
- Nerve damage / pressure areas
- Deep vein thrombosis

Rare but serious complications

- Awareness under General Anaesthesia
- Severe allergy, shock, Malignant Hyperthermia
- Stroke, heart attack
- Paralysis
- Pulmonary oedema
- Any of the above can lead to permanently impaired function, coma or death

Please Note: The above list does not, of course, cover every possible complication of anaesthesia, but includes most known problems. Please ask your anaesthetist if there is a greater risk of any specific problems you may have with your planned procedure.

(b) Fasting Instructions

No solid food or milk for 6 hours prior to surgery

You may drink clear fluids up to 2 hours before surgery (Water, Apple Juice, Black Tea or Black Coffee – NO MILK)

(c) Medications prior to surgery

It is important to **keep taking your regular heart, blood pressure, asthma and antacid medications** on the morning of surgery. Please only use as little water as is necessary to swallow your medications.

Generally other medications may be omitted. Beware of natural remedies (fish oil, krill oil, Echinacea etc.) as these often contain anti-coagulant properties and need to be stopped usually 7 days prior.

If you have any doubts please talk to your surgeon or anaesthetist.

Insulin users will need personal advice from their anaesthetist / GP. Please don't hesitate to contact me.

Please bring all your regular medications with you to hospital, or a list of medication and their doses and strengths.

(d) Anaesthetic Fees

Your anaesthetic fee is that charged by your specialist anaesthetist for the professional service they provide to you.

Dr Sander charges considerably less than the AMA recommended fee in an attempt to minimise your out of pocket expense.

Anaesthetic fees are calculated according to a number of factors like

Age and general health of the patient; Complexity of the procedure; Time the procedure takes and whether it is provided as an emergency or out of hours intervention; Specialised nerve blocks or invasive monitoring that may assist with your procedure

Dr Sander retains the services of Medical Business Management for administration purposes and invoicing.

MBM will lodge on your behalf after the procedure is done for the Health Fund/Medicare portion and only sends an account for the "Gap". If your Health fund is part of the AHSA group this rebate will be paid directly to your doctor. Members of non AHSA funds will receive two separate cheques --- one from Medicare and one from your fund which will need to be forwarded to your doctor or MBM to finalize your account. **Non AHSA** funds eg Bupa/NIB/HCF/HBA/St Lukes/GMHBA will only pay **schedule fee** if there is a patient out of pocket – which means a larger out of pocket expense for the patient. This does not mean you have been charged more for your Anaesthetic – your health fund as stated has paid a much less benefit than other Health funds do.

Government regulations prevent patients from insuring against the full cost of medical fees. Gap fees have arisen because the Commonwealth Government has not indexed Medicare rebates adequately for the past twenty-five years. Medicare rebates for anaesthesia are approximately equal to only one third of the rebates for the corresponding surgical operation.

All enquiries regarding your Anaesthetic costs can be directed to "Medical Business Management" on:

Phone: 07 5444 6615 or Email: admin@medbus.com.au

(e) Quality Assurance

All Specialist Anaesthetists are required to participate in continuous professional development. Certain activities require direct patient feedback and therefore you are invited to provide your feedback about your anaesthetic experience.

If you consent to receive a patient feedback form at no cost from MBM with a few simple questions after your procedure please place your initial here _____.

I acknowledge that I have read and understood the above information.

.....
(Patient/Guardian Signature)

.....
(Patient/Guardian Name)

.....
(Date)

Please email or fax or post this form SIGNED ALONG WITH YOUR QUESTIONNAIRE

(4 pages altogether) well in advance before your surgery to Medical Business Management (MBM).

Email: admin@medbus.com.au

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Fax 07 5444 6115