



Fees Estimate

The Hobart Anaesthetic Group encourages patients to contact the practice prior to your procedure to obtain detailed information on the costs associated with anaesthesia including estimates of likely out of pocket expenses. The GAP amounts vary considerably depending on your health fund and procedure.

Please note that uninsured patients will have a greater out of pocket expense than those with health cover. Also note that the estimate is based on the planned surgery and/or procedure being undertaken and it being of standard duration. Changes in surgery and/or procedure or time will affect the final anaesthesia fee and the rebates from your health fund and Medicare.

The amount of the GAP is based on the rebate published by your health funds 'gap-cover' scheme. If this rebate is not available to you, the gap amount will be higher.

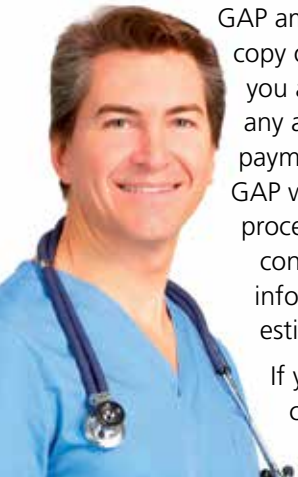
Please phone the Hobart Anaesthetic Group on (03) 6223 1610 for assistance and further information.



Financial Information

There will be an account following your procedure for the anaesthesia service. In some instances this account will be fully covered by your health fund and Medicare and will be processed directly by the Hobart Anaesthetic Group. Where your fund does not fully cover the account the GAP amount is your responsibility. A copy of the account will be sent to you after your procedure including any amounts owing and detailing payment methods. The amount of GAP will vary with health fund and procedure. We encourage patients to contact the practice for any further information including detailed estimates before your procedure.

If you require any assistance please contact: The Hobart Anaesthetic Group on (03) 6223 1610



The Hobart Anaesthetic Group

'for optimal safety & specialised care'

Address: 303 Macquarie Street, Hobart

Telephone: (03) 6223 1610

Email: info@thegroup.com.au

Website: www.thegroup.com.au

Anaesthesia & your Anaesthetist



'for optimal safety & specialised care'

General Guidelines for Anaesthesia

For optimum safety you will require a Specialist Anaesthetist to provide anaesthesia care during your forthcoming procedure. A Specialist Anaesthetist is a doctor who has completed a medical degree and also further specialist training in anaesthesia. Of particular importance in this field is the safe use of anaesthesia drugs and other techniques, careful monitoring of patients, pain management, resuscitation and intensive care, as well as extensive training in anaesthesia for specialised areas such as obstetrics, neurosurgery and paediatrics.

The Hobart Anaesthetic Group

The Hobart Anaesthetic Group has been a significant part of the Hobart medical community since 1960. It currently comprises over 30 Associate and Affiliate specialist qualified anaesthetists. "The Group" anaesthetists attend all hospitals in the Hobart area, as well as providing a 24 hour, 365 day per year emergency service.

A comprehensive pre-anaesthesia assessment service, prior to admission to hospital, is offered from our rooms. Please call 03 6224 0131 to make an appointment, if required.

1. Prior to Anaesthesia

You will be required to fast for several hours prior to your procedure (usually 6 hours for food and 3 hours for clear fluids). Chewing gum or taking other sweets or lollies is not allowed during this time. Also, if a smoker, you should stop as early as possible prior to surgery and anaesthesia to improve your ability to carry oxygen around the body. It is essential you do not smoke on the day of surgery.

Your anaesthetist will consult with, and assess you, prior to your procedure and discuss all aspects of anaesthesia care with you.

Sometimes it is necessary for further tests to be performed or even further consultations with other specialists. If required, your anaesthetist will arrange these for you.

2. During the surgery/procedure

Your anaesthetist will be carefully monitoring you continuously during your procedure and by the careful use of drugs and other techniques will keep you safely anaesthetised.

Most often you will receive an injection in the hand or arm to allow anaesthesia medication to be given and often also fluids ('a drip'). Before being anaesthetised the anaesthetist and their assistant will attach monitors to you which are routinely used (eg: heart, blood pressure and oxygen monitoring).

3. After the surgery/procedure

Your anaesthetist will transfer you to the recovery room where you will be observed by appropriately trained staff. Once you have sufficiently 'recovered' and it is safe, you will be returned to the ward or other part of the hospital. After general anaesthesia, you will be quite sleepy when you first 'wake-up'.

Modern anaesthesia in Australia has been shown to be the safest in the world.

Recovery from general anaesthesia is much improved, but side effects may occur.

Side-effects

Following anaesthesia you should expect to experience some side-effects. Depending on the nature of your surgery or procedure, the length of time anaesthetised and many other factors, your recovery will vary. Your anaesthetist will discuss with you in detail what to expect.

Common side-effects include feeling quite sleepy or 'hung-over' for a period of time, having a sore throat or simply being thirsty or dryness in the mouth, bruising or tenderness in the region where the initial injection was, and nausea and/or vomiting.

Pain may follow many surgical procedures and your anaesthetist will organise pain relief medication for you. Sometimes, more advanced forms of pain relief are used, such as epidural or spinal injections, nerve blocks or pain medication pumps. Your anaesthetist will always discuss these with you prior to your surgery.

Safety

Anaesthesia is very safe and continues to make advances in the care of patients to enhance safety and outcomes even further. This is particularly so in Australia. However, like all medical procedures, there are risks involved when being anaesthetised and undergoing surgery. Fortunately, anaesthetists are specifically trained in handling emergency situations.

Serious problems such as heart attacks, severe breathing difficulty, major allergic reactions and other problems can occur, but generally the risk is very low. If you have any particular worries it is important to discuss these with your anaesthetist.