



Dr Peter Freeman Information for Patients

Fees:

A separate fee will be charged for your anaesthetic. The fee is calculated using the Relative Value Guide for anaesthesia which takes into consideration the degree of difficulty of the anaesthetic, the age and general condition of the patient, and the actual time taken. It is charged at a level reflecting the costs of practice, training, and the maintenance of the highest possible standards. My fees are significantly less than the maximum level considered fair and reasonable by the Australian Society of Anaesthetists and the Australian Medical Association.

There is a discrepancy between the fees charged and the Medical Benefits Schedule, which Medicare and the private health funds base their rebates. This discrepancy has increased as rebates have failed to keep up with escalating costs over the years.

You should be able to claim a rebate from Medicare for most anaesthetic services. If you have private health insurance you may be able to claim a further rebate from your insurer. There are a variety of schemes by a variety of insurers which may reduce "out of pocket" costs, depending on the level of insurance. These schemes are all based on the MBS system. There may still be significant out of pocket expenses because of the inadequate rebate for anaesthetic services. With some insurers the out of pocket is considerably less.

Insurers with the best anaesthetic products include Medibank Private and the Australian Health Service Alliance (Australian Unity, Defence Health, Manchester Unity) and numerous others. Insurers with the greatest anaesthetic out of pocket include AXA, HBA, NIB, HCF, MBF and some others which do not participate in the same gap insurance arrangements as the previously mentioned insurers. Middle range insurers for anaesthesia include GMHBA, Latrobe, Federation and some others.

I strongly recommend that you seek information on likely out of pocket expenses by contacting my office *prior to surgery*. Your surgeon may also provide some indication of my costs. Because the anaesthetic fee depend in part on the duration of the procedure, it is not possible to give an exact costing beforehand. However, the out of pocket expenses range from approximately \$120 to over \$550 for major cases. This may be higher if the health fund rebates are not available to you.

If you have any question about fees or any aspect of your anaesthetic care, please do not hesitate to talk to me about them, either by contacting my office or when we meet near the time of your procedure.