



## INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR ANAESTHETIC

As your Anaesthetist for the surgery or procedure you have been booked for in the near future, I will only meet you shortly before your procedure so I wish to give you some information to consider before we meet.

PLEASE BRING an up-to-date medication list to hospital with you (or bring your medications with you if that is easier) it is very important that I know what you are taking regularly. I also need to know if you have any medication allergies.

TAKE YOUR REGULAR MEDICATIONS- unless you have been specifically asked to stop something by the Surgeon or Admissions nurse (e.g. some blood-thinning tablets or some diabetes treatments) , take all your usual tablets and inhalers early on the day of surgery (with a small amount of water if you wish) , even if you are otherwise fasting.

IS FASTING REALLY NECESSARY? I know it is not pleasant going without food and drink BUT fasting before any anaesthetic is a MUST. Food or fluid in the stomach may regurgitate and be inhaled into your lungs while unconscious which is VERY dangerous

### 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)

MY JOB is to monitor you carefully throughout your operation or procedure, making sure you are asleep, comfortable and safe – I will also look after your pain relief and treat any nausea or vomiting that may occur soon after you wake.

MY AIM is to make this as safe and as comfortable an experience as possible. If you have any worries about this or any previous anaesthetics, you have had- please make sure you tell me.

AFTER YOUR ANAESTHETIC – you will naturally feel drowsy for a little while – you may have a sore or dry throat, feel sick or have a headache. We will treat any of these symptoms to have you feeling well again as soon as possible. It is common to have some dizziness, blurred vision or short-term memory loss which should all pass in a few hours.

If you experience any worrying after-effects – please phone me or the hospital to discuss them.

GOING HOME – if you are being treated as a “Day Patient”-going home the day of your surgery or procedure- make sure you have someone to accompany you home.

For the remainder of that day-you MUST NOT drive a motor vehicle, make important decisions, use machinery or tools, sign any legal documents or drink alcohol.

ARE THERE ANY RISKS? – Australia is the safest place in the world to have an Anaesthetic. Anaesthetists are Specialist doctors who undergo a minimum of 7 years training AFTER graduating as a doctor to qualify as an Anaesthetist. Nevertheless, some patients are at increased risk of complications because of their own health problems e.g. heart disease, obesity or diabetes OR because of the type of surgery they are undergoing.

#### Infrequent complications include

- Bruising, pain or injury at the site of injections
- Muscle pains
- Asthmatic reactions
- Temporary nerve damage
- Damage to teeth or dental work

- Lip or tongue injury

**Very Rare** serious complications including death could possibly occur but the chances of these are remote. If you would like to know more about these uncommon complications, I would be happy to discuss these with you.

## **FINANCIAL MATTERS - MY FEES**

### **Privately Insured patients**

Anaesthetic fees are calculated according to a number of factors and often, the exact fee is not known until after the procedure is completed. The fee varies depending on the age and health of the patient, the type of surgery being performed, the time the surgery takes, the need for pain-relieving nerve blocks or complex monitoring, and whether the procedure is an emergency or after-hours.

While an exact quote cannot be given due to the uncertainty of the final fee, a close estimate can be obtained by contacting my rooms.

All of the fee may be covered by Medicare and your Health fund, dependent on the procedure and your circumstances. However; often there will still be a gap to pay above this (varies with your insurer and cover acquired). The gap may vary slightly dependent on your anaesthetist as we are not allowed to agree between individuals to set a specific fee.

As a rough guide – these gaps are likely to be in the range of

- Short procedures (under 1 hour) - \$50 to \$400
- Intermediate procedures (1-2 hours) \$150 to \$550
- Long procedures (over 2 hours) \$450 to \$1200

### **Veterans Affairs – Workcover**

I deal directly with Dept of Veterans Affairs and WorkCover so you will have no out-of-pocket expenses for any Anaesthetic fees.

### **Self-insured Patients**

If you have no insurance and are paying for the procedure yourself, please contact my rooms 1 week prior to your procedure so I can provide you with a quote for the fee you will incur for your Anaesthetic. We may request that the full fee or the “gap” be paid by Cash / Cheque / Internet banking prior to your anaesthetic dependent on your individual anaesthetist and type of procedure. Failure to make these arrangements may result in cancellation of your procedure.

## **QUESTIONS?**

If you have any questions or concerns about your Anaesthetic or my fees, PLEASE either contact me beforehand or ask me when you meet me on the day of your surgery/procedure.

I look forward to meeting you soon.

PLEASE SIGN BELOW TO ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR UNDERSTANDING AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE MATTERS DISCUSSED AND FORWARD A COPY TO OUR ROOMS USING ANY OF THE OPTIONS BELOW.

SIGN..... DATE..... SURGEON.....

PRINT NAME..... DATE OF PROCEDURE (IF KNOWN).....

DR's NAME

**PHONE: 07 5345 5051 Fax: 07 54446115**

**Suite 605 – 11 Eccles Blvd, Birtinya, QLD 4575**

E-mail: [admin@coastalanaesthesia.com.au](mailto:admin@coastalanaesthesia.com.au) – ABN 36 152 761 003

Dr Rob Lattik - Dr Simon McPherson – Dr David Probert – Dr Rodney Cansdell - Dr David Tragen

Dr Tawona Dhlakama – Dr David Wright – Dr Olaf Sander - Dr Ewan Wright – Dr Martin Heck – Dr Paul Wigan

Dr Stacey Swinkels – Dr Megan Fletcher - Dr Willem Basson – Dr Dwane Jackson – Dr Johan Malherbe

Dr Riaz Hooshmand - Dr Adriano Coccianti – Dr Kellie Ovenden – Dr Tracy Du Plooy - Dr Gaurang Barot

Dr Caren Zhang – Dr David MacGarty – Dr Lana Vestarkis