



Est. 1978

# SUNSHINE COAST

## ANAESTHETIC GROUP

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**THIS FORM MUST BE SIGNED AND RETURNED TO THE HOSPITAL ON THE DAY OF ADMISSION**

## **Why Should I Read This Anaesthetic Information Sheet?**

Due to logistic difficulties seeing your Anaesthetist at the time you are making decisions about booking your operation, we offer this important written information:

- 1) What are some of the Risks and Complications of Anaesthesia?
- 2) How long do I need to fast before my operation?
- 3) What should I do about the regular medications I take?
- 4) How much is the Anaesthesia Fee *likely* to be

### **1) RISKS AND COMPLICATIONS OF ANAESTHESIA**

It is hoped this will not cause anxiety as in reality the risk of a serious anaesthetic mishap may be less than the risk you will take as you are brought to hospital by car.

**Most** serious consequences of surgery and anaesthesia arise in those who are already seriously ill.

Your specialist anaesthetist has, like any specialist surgeon or physician, completed at least six years of specialist training and examinations since graduation as a medical practitioner. The minimization and management of any side effects and complications is their prime consideration and responsibility.

### **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 manifestations eg. Itch, rash

### **Uncommon but serious short term complications**

- Awareness under General anaesthesia
- Damage to teeth, throat or vocal cords
- Allergic responses / asthma
- Nerve damage / pressure areas
- Deep vein thrombosis (economy class syndrome)
- Aspiration pneumonia

### **Rare but serious/disastrous complications**

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

**NOTE:** The above list does not, of course, cover every possible event but it certainly includes most known problems. Please ask your Anaesthetist if there is a greater risk of any specific problems for you having the planned operation.

## 2) FASTING INSTRUCTIONS

No Solid food for 6 hours and clear fluids up to 2 hours prior to scheduled surgery

Clear fluids - water, clear juice, cordial, black tea or black coffee (i.e. no milk)

Breast-feeding for infants can continue up until 2 hours prior to admission.

As we now stagger the arrival times for admission on the day of surgery the above times should then relate to the time of admission to Hospital

## 3) MEDICATION BEFORE SURGERY

PLEASE BRING ALL OF YOUR MEDICATIONS TO HOSPITAL WITH YOU OR AT LEAST A LIST OF WHAT YOU TAKE WITH DOSES AND STRENGTH.

It is important to keep taking any heart, *blood pressure*, *asthma* or *antacid* medication on the morning and day of surgery- you may have as much water as required to take them.

Generally other medication may be omitted. If in doubt contact your doctor or anaesthetist.

Insulin users will need personal advice from your Anaesthetist.

## 4) YOUR ANAESTHETIST'S FEE

This is the fee charged by your specialist anaesthetist for their professional services to you.

Your anaesthetist will generally charge less than the AMA recommended fee in an attempt to minimise your out of pocket expenses.

The Anaesthetic Fee is now Calculated According to the Relative Value Guide. This schedule allocates units according to a number of factors:

- The complexity of the procedure
- The age and health of the Patient
- The time the procedure takes
- Specialized nerve blocks or Invasive monitoring that may assist with the procedure
- Whether it is an emergency procedure occurring in or out of hours

To help you anticipate the approximate amount you will need to pay, on top of your refunds from Medicare and private insurance, we supply the following information:

### Approximate "Extra" Personal Contribution

Minor operations	\$100 - \$400
Medium operations	\$400 - \$1,500
Major operations	\$1,500 - \$3,000

As each anaesthetist charges differently a more accurate quotation of the total fee and proposed gap can be obtained by telephoning the secretaries at the anaesthetic rooms on 5493 4383.

I acknowledge that I have read and understood the above information. All my questions have been answered to my satisfaction.

(Patient's signature)

(Patient's name)

*This Anaesthetic Group conforms to the current National Privacy Principles of the Federal Privacy Act. All medical records and billing details are dealt with according to the published guidelines.*

*Please contact our Rooms for a detailed pamphlet or to see our Privacy Policy. Please note that consent may not necessarily be obtained in the following situation*

*Emergencies*

*To ensure safety of patient/staff or success of the particular operation.*

*To meet Federal/State legal requirements.*

*To meet medical indemnity requirements.*

Andrew Beck  
Nick Courtney  
Darren Emerick  
Guy Godsail  
Nick Hughes  
Andrew Lonergan  
John Poh  
Rob Whitburn

David Bertholini  
James Craig  
Owain Evans  
Chris Graves  
Nick Hutton  
Neil McKinley  
Peter Ridge  
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Dean Haydon  
Brian Lewer  
Steve Mitchell  
Peter Watt