

Anaesthetic information for your operation

As you will probably only see your anaesthesiologist for a few minutes before you have your operation, the following information sheet explains our role in ensuring the safe conduct of your anaesthetic and operation as well as informing you about the fees that we charge.

Specialist anaesthesiologists are medical doctors who have, in addition, undergone a minimum of 4 years of specialist training to enable them to anaesthetise you for any operation including cardiac, neuro and paediatric surgery.

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Medical history

You will be required to complete a medical questionnaire to highlight potential problems while you are undergoing surgery and anaesthesia. Please bring information on any medical conditions you may have to the hospital with you when you are admitted for your operation.

Medication

1. Bring your current medication to the hospital if there is any chance that you will be staying overnight or need to take this medication while in the hospital.
2. Bring a list of any medication that you are currently on, or have taken in the past 3 months (including homeopathic and natural products).
3. Bring a list of any allergies you may have.
4. Take your routine medication as normal. (If you are taking Warfarin, Aspirin, Plavix or any other blood thinners please ask the surgeon when you should stop these before the operation).

Eating before an anaesthetic or sedation

You need to be starved for all anaesthetics and sedation.

All patients

No food or drink for 6 hours before you report to the hospital on the day of your operation.

- Morning surgery – no food or drink after midnight.
- Afternoon surgery – no food or drink after an early light breakfast (before 7am)

Children under 12 years old must also have no food or milk products from 6 hours before admission, but may have water or clear apple juice up to 2 hours before admission to the hospital.

Timing of Surgery

Although surgery for a list of patients is scheduled to start at a particular time, only one patient can be anaesthetised and operated on at a time. This means that your surgery may be hours after the scheduled start time of the list. An estimate of the start time for your procedure may be given at the pre-anaesthetic assessment. If you are admitted to hospital during the course of a list you may not see the anaesthesiologist pre operatively in the ward but in the theatre complex. If you have a medical condition or if you want to discuss anything with the anaesthesiologist please contact them prior to the day of surgery.

Complications during anaesthesia

Anaesthesia is not without risk. Adverse events can occur during any anaesthetic, which can range from trivial to brain damage or death. These events may occur due to: Reactions to anaesthetic drugs, underlying medical diseases, complications with procedures that have to be performed or due to surgery. Anaesthetists have been trained to manage these complications which may incur further medical expenses. **If a complication persists for more than 48 hours please inform your anaesthesiologist or surgeon.**

The following list covers some of the complications that may occur under anaesthesia or after an operation.

<u>Common complication</u> (1 to 10% of cases) Minimal treatment usually	<u>Rare complications</u> (Less than 1 in 1000 cases) May require further treatment	<u>Very rare complications</u> (1 in 10,000 to 1 in 200,000 cases) Often serious with long-term damage	<u>Brain damage or Death</u> (Less than 1 in 250,000 cases)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nausea and vomiting • Sore throat • Shivering or feeling cold • Headache • Dizziness • Itching • Pain during injection of drugs • Swelling or bruising at the infusion site. • Confusion or memory loss (common if elderly) • Side effects or interactions of post-operative medication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Injuries to teeth, crowns, lips, tongue and mouth • Hoarse voice, voice changes • Vocal cord injuries • Painful muscles • Difficulty in urinating • Difficulty breathing • Visual disturbances • Worsening of underlying medical conditions like diabetes, asthma or heart disease 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eye injuries • Nerve injuries causing paralysis • Lung infection • Awareness of the operation • Bleeding • Stroke • Allergic reactions • Unexpected reactions to anaesthetic drugs • Inherited reactions to drugs (Malignant hyperthermia, Scoline apnoea, porphyria) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to any other complication getting more severe • Heart attacks • Emboli (clots) • Lack of oxygen

Complications arising due to procedures that may be performed during your anaesthetic

Procedure	Complication
• Intravenous line ("drip")	Pain, swelling, bleeding, inflammation, infection, repeated insertions
• Central line for specialised monitoring or therapy	Pain, swelling, bleeding, inflammation, infection, repeated insertions, puncture of lung, artery or nerve.
• Arterial line for specialised monitoring	Pain, swelling, bleeding, inflammation, infection, repeated insertions, loss of blood flow to the hand leading to death of fingers
• Airway management	Damage to lips, teeth, tongue, palate, throat, vocal cords, hoarseness, inhalation of stomach contents (aspiration), pneumonia, obstruction of breathing, failure to manage the airway which may require an emergency operative procedure.
• Nerve blocks, spinal or epidural injection	Nerve damage, paralysis, backache, headache, nausea, vomiting, dizziness, shortness of breath, pain, bleeding, inadequate pain control.

After an anaesthetic or sedation

You will not be allowed to drive (arrange for a lift home), operate dangerous machinery or make important decisions for 24 hours after your anaesthesia. DO NOT CONSUME ALCOHOL post anaesthesia and until you have stopped all post-operative prescribed medication (i.e. pain killers, anti-inflammatories, antibiotics etc.) If in doubt please consult your treating surgeon or anaesthetist.

Anaesthetic Accounts

- The fees charged by the anaesthesiologist fall within the guidelines of the Health Professions Council of South Africa.
- **The anaesthetic fee is based on a rate determined by each individual anaesthesiologist and not on any medical scheme rate or the old NHRPL.** (Competition Commission ruling 2004)
- **You will receive a completely separate account from the anaesthesiologist.** (There will also be other accounts from the surgeon, radiologists, physiotherapist, pharmacist and hospital.)
- An average quote for specific procedures is provided below.
- The cost of anaesthesia is time dependent. As it is impossible to predict how long a procedure will take, this makes estimating the cost of an anaesthetic extremely difficult. The estimated quote is therefore based on the average time taken for a procedure and assumes the procedure is of average complexity.
- If the procedure takes longer than the estimated time the cost will increase according to the duration of the procedure.
- Excluded are additional costs that will be incurred for modifiers such as: fractures, obesity, paediatrics, elderly, ICU admission, pain relief techniques, blood pressure control, revision surgery and emergencies or cases not booked on routine lists
- If your **BMI (body mass index)** is greater than 35 kg/m² you will be charged an additional 50% of the anaesthetic fee.
To calculate BMI = weight(kg)/{height (m) x height (m)}
- Explanations of the codes on the account can be obtained from The Board of Health Funders (011-537-0200).
- As all medical insurance companies offer cover at different rates your medical aid will reimburse you for your anaesthetic account at a rate based on the plan you have selected and the rules of your medical aid fund. This can vary from 30% to 100% of the amount charged.
- **The total amount may not be covered by your medical aid. You will be responsible for the short fall.**
- The anaesthesiologist is not a designated service provider (DSP) of any medical insurance company and therefore prescribed minimum benefit (PMB) conditions may not be covered in full by your medical insurance. (Check with your insurer).
- The anaesthesiologist does not deal with your medical aid account payment. You are responsible for settling the anaesthetic account with the anaesthesiologist and claiming from your medical aid.
- An account may be sent to your medical aid to help with your claim, but you are still responsible for payment of your anaesthetic account to your anaesthesiologist and interest and all legal fees that arise from any accounts that are not paid in full within 60 days.

Estimated anaesthetic fee

Procedure	Estimated Time	Estimated Anaesthetic fee	Approximate "100%" medical scheme rate	Shortfall at 100% scheme rate
Basic anaesthetic less than 30 min	20 min	R 1803	R 796	R 1007
Basic anaesthetic 65 min	65 min	R 2991	R 1 282	R 1709
Basic anaesthetic 95 min	95 min	R 4009	R 1 699	R 2310
Basic anaesthetic 90 min to 2 hrs	2 hours	R 5027	R 2 088	R 2911

- ❖ Please contact the anaesthesiologist if you require a more detailed quote or have any questions regarding your anaesthetic.

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CONSENT FOR ANAESTHESIA:

I, consent to _____ undergoing
(Patients full names)

anaesthesia for _____
(Procedure)

With respect to anaesthesia for the procedure:

- I acknowledge that I have received, read and understand the *Anaesthetic information sheet* and /or that I am able to get information about anaesthesia risks and complications from www.dunkeldanaestheticpractice.com.
- I confirm that this information clarifies for me, the risks and complications generally associated with my anaesthesia. Should I have any queries as to the purpose or anaesthetic technique or have concerns regarding my particular risk, I will discuss these at my pre-anaesthetic consultation or contact the anaesthesiologist before my surgery. I have been afforded an opportunity to ask questions regarding my anaesthesia.
- I understand that the anaesthetic technique discussed with me may need to be altered and agents and monitors may be used "off label" and may not be funded by my medical insurance. I exempt the anaesthesiologist from any adverse managed care requirements of my medical scheme.
- I understand that no one can guarantee an incident free anaesthetic
- I understand that the hospital supplies equipment and nursing staff which cannot be guaranteed by the anaesthesiologist.
- I agree not to drive, operate dangerous machinery, or make important decisions for 24 hours after the recovery from anaesthesia and to refrain from alcohol while taking any medication prescribed to me by the anaesthesiologist.

Confidentiality & protection of personal information:

- I agree that any personal, medical and billing information collected in terms of this consent is to be utilised for healthcare of the patient, billing, collection of debt and processing of queries or complaints.
- I authorize the release of any clinical information, including my HIV status, to any other member of the medical profession responsible for my treatment
- Personal information is securely stored and accessible only to third parties with signed confidentiality clauses as part of their employment agreements/ contracts.
- I consent to communication with my family/nominated others with respect to my medical care and account.
- I consent to the sharing of patient, guardian and guarantor information with the South African Society of Anaesthesiologists in the event of a complaint. This information will remain confidential within the SAS CEO and the Private Practice and Regulation Business Unit.

Payment agreement between the Anaesthesiologist and person responsible for paying the account.

Payment:

- I acknowledge that the anaesthesiologist will bill separately from the surgeon and hospital.
- Anaesthesia costs are calculated using time and added risk modifiers so may be more or less than the estimate provided.
- Any cost estimate assumes average surgical time and average complexity. Additional fees will be charged if the procedure exceeds the average surgical duration, or if unanticipated complications arise or if additional treatment and procedures are performed.

- Additional risk modifiers such as: fractures, bone and joint surgery, obesity, paediatrics, elderly, ICU admission, pain relief techniques, blood pressure control, revision surgery and emergencies or cases not booked on routine lists may not be included in the cost estimate and need to be added to the time cost estimate.
- I acknowledge that I have received and read the *Anaesthetic information sheet* and/or that I am also able to get information about anaesthetic billing from www.dunkeldanaestheticpractice.com and request a specific cost estimate from the anaesthetist.
- I am aware that I have to determine the estimated duration of surgery from the anaesthesiologist or surgeon to obtain the total estimated cost of my anaesthesia.
- I understand that medical insurance companies offer cover at different rates. The medical insurance I have chosen may reimburse me at between 33% (called 100% by some medical aids) and the full amount of the estimated cost, dependent on my chosen plan.
- The anaesthesiologist is not a designated service provider (DSP) of any medical insurance company and therefore prescribed minimum benefit (PMB) conditions may not be covered in full by my medical insurance (this is determined by the rules of my medical insurer).
- I understand that I am personally responsible for payment of the account and undertake to settle my account on completion of service days after which interest will be charged. If I fail to pay any amounts that are due, I agree that all amounts owing will immediately become due and payable and the anaesthetist or their nominated representative may access any of my available information and disclose my failure to pay or erratic payments to any credit bureaus or 3rd party without incurring any liability therefore. I will also be liable for interest, tracing fees, legal costs and collection fees.
- I have read, understood and agree to the contents herein. I confirm that I am 18 years of age or older and the particulars and all information furnished by me are in all respects true and complete. Specifically, alterations/ additions to this form are only valid if countersigned by both parties.

Cost of the anaesthetic (may vary):

The estimated time cost of this anaesthetic will be approximately:	R 3 200	for the first 30 minutes or part thereof
The ongoing additional charge after 30 minutes is approximately	R 900	for every 15 minutes or part thereof

Estimated additional amounts that must be added to the time cost for the following **common risk modifiers** (not all modifiers are included):

Age less than 1 year or greater than 70 years	+R 875	Once off
Specialised pain control procedures (PCA, nerve, spinal or epidural block)	+R 1 550	Once off per procedure
Intensive Care	+R 1 950	Once off
Body mass index greater than 35 kg/m ²	+R 475	per 15 minutes or part thereof
Emergencies	+R 475	per 15 minutes or part thereof
Arterial or central line insertion	+R 1 050	Once off per procedure

The final estimated cost is determined by adding the costs of the duration of anaesthesia and all the risk modifiers

Name: _____

Signature (Parent/Guardian): _____

Date: _____

Place: _____

Please complete both pages of this form and hand it to the anaesthetologist on the day of your anaesthetic.

Patient details

Full names and surname:	Title:
ID Number:	Age:
Occupation:	

Person responsible (Guarantor) for paying the account

I nominate the party listed as "person responsible for payment of the account" as Guarantor who is aware of this responsibility. I understand that a guarantor does not absolve me from my responsibility for payment, that I am personally liable for the account and bound by the terms of this agreement.

Full names and surname:	Title:
ID Number:	
Occupation:	Business/Employers name:
Relationship to patient:	Spouse telephone number:
Postal address:	Residential address:
eMail:	
Telephone (home):	Telephone (work):
Fax:	Cell number:
Medical aid name:	Medical aid number:
Members name:	Authorisation number:
Plan:	Gap cover: Yes No
Contact not living with you:	Telephone number:

Patients Medical details (please complete)

Age: _____	Weight: _____	Height: _____	Pregnant No Yes (weeks _____)
Last food: _____ h	Last fluid: _____ h		
Smoking: No Yes _____ /day	Alcohol: nil / social / moderate / heavy		
Allergies:			
Current Medication:			
Previous anaesthetics (for what & when):			
Problems with any anaesthetic:			
Family member with anaesthetic problems:			
Has the patient ever had the following?			
Scoline Apnoea	Yes No	Porphyria	Yes No
Malignant Hyperthermia	Yes No	Diabetes	Yes No
High blood pressure	Yes No	Heart disease	Yes No
Asthma, Bronchitis, emphysema	Yes No	Thyroid problems	Yes No
Obstructive sleep apnoea or severe snoring	Yes No	Recent cold or flu	Yes No
Gastric ulcer, reflux, Crohns or irritable bowel	Yes No	Epilepsy	Yes No
Kidney or bladder disease	Yes No	Stroke or blackout	Yes No
False, loose, chipped, crowned teeth	Yes No	Easy bleeding	Yes No
Aspirin in last 2 weeks	Yes No	Muscle disease	Yes No
Does the patient consent to a blood transfusion if necessary			Yes No
Details on the above or anything else that you feel the anaesthetist should know:			