



Dear Patient,

Since anaesthesia is most often an uncertainty for many patients, we would like to take the opportunity to give you the following information and guidelines concerning your anaesthetic with your upcoming procedure.

THE MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL

An **Anaesthesiologist** is a specialist medical doctor who has trained for at least 12 years, 4 of which are spent specializing in anaesthesiology, in order to carry out her/his task of monitoring and maintaining your vital signs (e.g. breathing, heart rate, blood pressure, temperature etc.), keeping you pain free throughout your surgery and to ensure as far as possible a safe and comfortable recovery.

DIFFERENT FORMS OF ANAESTHESIA

There are four types of anaesthesia: Conscious sedation, Local Anaesthesia, Regional Anaesthesia and General Anaesthesia. The choice of anaesthetic used depends on the nature of surgery and your general health status. Your anaesthesiologist will determine the best type of anaesthesia for your specific case. You are encouraged to ask your anaesthesiologist any questions you may have regarding the type of anaesthetic planned. Refer to the back of this form for more information and consent of regional block.

YOUR ACCOUNT

Please note that your Anaesthetic Fee is a **separate** account from your hospital and surgeon's account. Depending on your choice of **Medical Aid or Insurance Plan**, your healthcare funder may cover between 30% to 100% of your anaesthesiologist's fees. This is similar to any short term insurance situation where the level of both cover and excess is determined by the individual insurance plan and the premium paid by the insured person. In other words, your agreement with your medical aid is totally separate to the agreement with your anaesthesiologist.

To enable us to provide the quality service our patients deserve our fees are based on the cost of delivering a service and are benchmarked to other professional services. The SAMA Benchmark Guide to Billing for Medical Services is the standard for doctors' fees in South Africa, any lesser charge is a discount.

The rates charged by this practice are done according to agreement with the major medical aids but may exceed the RPL rate of your medical aid.

By signing the Anaesthetic consent document (green form), you acknowledge that you will **personally be responsible for payment** of your account if there is any shortfall in payment by your medical aid, or where your medical aid fails to pay for whatever reason. You are advised to consult with your medical aid prior to your anaesthetic regarding the level of cover they will provide.

If you require an **estimated cost** of your procedure **beforehand**, please **contact** our office. Any estimate assumes average surgical time and complexity.

The anaesthetic fee comprises of 3 separate chargeable entities: a pre-operative risk assessment, anaesthetic time and a procedure-specific anaesthetic fee. A detailed information sheet on anaesthetic fees is available on request.

Various factors can affect the cost and cause the final amount to differ from the estimated cost. A non-exhaustive list includes the following: duration of operation, unplanned or after hour procedures, morbid obesity, hypotensive procedures, specialized techniques used to manage your pain, insertion of specialized intravascular lines and care in the Intensive Care Unit.

We would like to assure you of our commitment to the highest quality healthcare and service and we want to take this opportunity to wish you a speedy recovery.

I _____ have read and understood the above.

Signature