

Most often you will only get to meet with your anaesthetist for a short time on the day of your operation. This information sheet explains their role in ensuring the safe conduct of your anaesthetic and operation and provides information about the fees that will be charged. Specialist anaesthesiologists are qualified medical doctors who have undergone a minimum of 4 years of additional specialist training after medical school to enable them to anaesthetise you for any operation. Please understand that it is not possible to guarantee a risk-free anaesthetic, but that our team is committed to providing the highest standard of care at all times.

Role of the Anaesthetist

Your anaesthetist is a specialist doctor responsible for your safety and comfort before, during and after surgery. Before the procedure, the anaesthetist will review your medical history, medications and test results to develop an appropriate anaesthetic plan. This may include nerve blocks, a general anaesthetic and or sedation. During surgery, they will administer the anaesthetic and continuously monitor your vital signs, including your heart rate, blood pressure, breathing and oxygen levels. The anaesthetist also manages pain medication, fluid therapy and any medical issues that may arise during the operation, ensuring that you remain stable and comfortable throughout the procedure. Your anaesthetist is also involved with managing pain medication in the period following surgery.

The following are some of the potential risks associated with anaesthesia.

Common complications (1 to 10% of cases) Minimal or no treatment usually required	Rare complications (Less than 1 in 1000 cases) May require further treatment	Very rare complications (1 in 10,000 to 1 in 200,000 cases) Often serious with long-term damage	Brain damage or Death (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 drip site. Confusion or memory loss Side effects or interactions of postoperative 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 or blindness Nerve injuries causing paralysis Lung infection Awareness during 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 attack Emboli (clots) Lack of oxygen

Patient responsibilities: 1) Bring a list of all chronic medications and supplements, and the results of any recent medical investigations (eg heart, lung, thyroid and other blood tests) with you. Please bring all your current medication to the hospital as you may need to continue taking this medication during your stay. Please bring your CPAP mask if you have Obstructive Sleep Apnoea.

2) Please **DO NOT** withhold any information. It is critically important that your anaesthesiologist and medical team know everything about you.

3) Take your routine medication as normal. If you are taking any **blood thinning medication** ask the surgeon whether you should stop these before the operation AND check with the doctor who prescribed the medication that it is safe for you stop.

4) If you have a medical condition, are unwell, or wish to discuss anything with the anaesthesiologist please try to make contact before the day of surgery.

5) Do not eat anything for 6 hours before you report to the hospital on the day of your operation. You may drink **CLEAR** fluids until two hours before surgery (water, clear apple juice, black tea or coffee) unless directed otherwise.

6) Do not drive, operate heavy machinery or make important decisions for 24 hours after your anaesthetic. Do not consume alcohol for 24 hours after anaesthesia AND until you have stopped all post-operative prescribed medication.



Anaesthetic Accounts and Billing Agreement The fees charged by the anaesthesiologist are calculated according to established codes and practices governed by the Health Professions Council of South Africa and relevant South African legislation (E.g.: The National Health Act, Medical Schemes Act). You will receive accounts from the hospital, surgeon, other service providers and a completely separate account from the anaesthesiologist. The anaesthesiology account consists of a consultation fee; a time-based fee - the rate of which is related to the predetermined associated complexity of the procedure; additional modifiers related to anatomical location, positional requirements and patient risk factors; and a fee for additional procedures or interventions performed by the anaesthesiologist. Explanation of the codes on the account can be obtained from the Board of Health Funders (011 537-0200). Additional procedural costs or costs associated with unanticipated complications may apply. **The total amount may not be covered by your medical aid.**

I(Full Name) have read this document, my concerns have been adequately addressed, I agree that I am liable for payment of the account (even though I may not be the patient or principal member of the medical scheme), and I accept the conditions as set out above.

- In the event of this account being handed over for debt collection, I accept that the account information and details will be shared with credit bureaus without the anaesthesiologist incurring any liability.
- I agree to allow my personal data to be shared to relevant organisations and health care providers in the due course of my care in compliance with the POPI act. I agree to the collection and storage of anonymous data of clinical and practice management nature to improve health care provision. Furthermore, I consent to the sharing of patient, guardian or guarantor information with relevant legal and advisory bodies in the event of a complaint or legal dispute.
- I agree to the processing and secure storage of my health and personal data in the due course of care, by the practice, the hospital and their associated health care and financial associates.

I hereby consent to undergoing anaesthesia administered by Dr for (procedure). I have read this document and I undertake to ensure that my concerns are adequately addressed and that I am afforded the opportunity to ask questions before undergoing the procedure.

Signature

Full Name

Date

Anaesthetist.....