



## **Balwyn Anaesthesia Group**

**Suite 504, 365 Little Collins Street, Melbourne**

**Phone: (03) 8375 8145**

**Email: admin@balwynanaesthesia.com**

**Fax: (03) 8678 1018**

## Information for Patients Undergoing Anaesthesia for Gynaecology and Obstetrics Surgery

Anaesthesia may be performed through a variety of methods. The type of anaesthesia required for your procedure will be dependent on the procedure and your physical condition. The types of anaesthesia available are:

**General Anaesthesia:** This is the most common type of anaesthesia for most procedures. Anaesthetic drugs are either injected or delivered via inhalation, rendering a state of induced unconsciousness. Throughout the procedure, you will be monitored closely to ensure the safe delivery of anaesthesia.

**Regional Anaesthesia and Local Anaesthesia:** This involves the use of local anaesthetic drugs for anaesthesia or analgesia. Examples include epidurals, spinal blocks, major nerve blocks. This can be used in conjunction with sedation or general anaesthesia.

### Risks and Complications of Anaesthesia

Modern anaesthesia is very safe. However, side effects and complications do occur. Minor and sometimes unavoidable side effects include nausea and vomiting, drowsiness, headache, sore throat, headache, muscle aches, pain at the injection site, bruising from injection sites. In addition, there is a small risk of dental damage particularly with loose teeth, caps, crowns, bridges, veneers. Serious complications are rare. These include aspiration (stomach contents entering the lungs), severe drugs reactions, heart attack, stroke, lung failure, awareness, death.

### Preoperative preparations

You are required to fast from food for at least 6 hours preoperative. Clear fluid can be consumed for up to 2 hours preoperatively.

Your anaesthetist will discuss with you regarding medications that you should abstain on the day of the surgery.

**Your anaesthetist will attempt to contact you via the phone to discuss your anaesthesia before your surgery.** *If you have any concerns regarding your anaesthesia or risk/complications, we will discuss these with you.*



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**Anaesthetic Fees**

Our invoice will be separate to your surgeon’s and hospital fees.

Anaesthetic fees are determined by a variety of factors including the complexity of surgery, the complexity of anaesthesia, health and age of the patient, length of surgery and whether the surgery is elective or emergency.

In most instances, Medicare and the health funds do not cover the entire cost of the anaesthetic and there may be an “out of pocket” payment. Patients who are Workcover, TAC, or DVA will not be charged an out of pocket expense.

The following are an estimate of our fees:

- Simple procedures (e.g. hysteroscopy or D+C): Gap of \$100-\$200.
- Moderate procedures (e.g. polypectomy or fibroid excision): Gap of \$150-\$300.
- Complex procedures (e.g. major endometriosis, hysterectomy): Gap of \$250 and above.

\*These fees are an estimate and are applicable to most major private health funds **except for Latrobe Health and NIB**. The estimated gap payment for these funds would be higher.

**CONSENT**

I understand that the anaesthetic fees mentioned are an estimate only and may be subject to variation.

I acknowledge that it is my responsibility to confirm with my health insurance fund the level of cover that I have and that I am responsible for any fees not covered by my health fund.

I acknowledge that I have received the information regarding out of pocket expenses and it is my responsibility to ensure payment of all fees within 14 days from the date of the invoice.

Signature of Patient/Parent/Guardian:..... Date:...../...../.....

Name of Patient/Parent/Guardian:.....

Please return this form by:		
<b>Mail:</b> Balwyn Anaesthesia Group Suite 504 365 Little Collins Street, Melbourne, VIC 3000	<b>Email:</b>  <a href="mailto:admin@balwynanaesthesia.com">admin@balwynanaesthesia.com</a>	<b>Fax:</b>  (03) 8678 1018