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Specialist Anaesthetist

A better kind of sleep

C/O APSO @ The Watson

33 Warwick Street

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REGISTRATION FOR ANAESTHESIA

Before your operation. Please send us this page via email, fax or post at your earliest convenience. You are welcome to send your hospital questionnaire as well, to avoid repetition.

Surname:		First name:	
Date of Birth:		(Child's Guardian):	
Email:		Mobile Number:	
Address:			
Procedure (Please send surgeon's description of surgery if quote requested):		Surgeon:	
Date of operation:		Hospital:	
GP Name:		GP Telephone:	
Health Fund Name:		Health Fund No:	
Medicare Number:		HCC/ Pension No:	

If you have the following conditions, please TICK and CIRCLE. If you have multiple conditions or medications, or would like a consultation, please book via our online diary at bit.ly/DrFA or call 08 8554 6078. I consult by video via computer, tablet or smartphone (e.g.: Teams, Webex, Zoom, Skype or FaceTime) and by telephone.

- **Heart:** Angina, failure, bypass, pacemaker, stent
- **Lung:** Asthma, emphysema, obstructive sleep apnea/ use of CPAP
- **Diabetes:** Especially if on insulin
- **Weight:** Over 100 kg, or BMI > 39
- **Muscle or Nerve problems**
- **Joint problems:** Especially neck and jaw
- **Reflux/ heartburn:**
- **Allergies:** medications, foods, tapes, latex, other
- **Blood clots/ DVT:**
- **Anaesthesia problems:** you or family members

Please list your Medications and any further information: _____

Possible out of pocket cost for Dr Fahlbusch ranges up to \$500 for most 'GapCover' schemes, depending on length and complexity of the procedure. For very long or complex procedures like DBS and spinal fusions, and to check if we participate in your 'GapCover' scheme, please send in this form.

For information: Dr Fahlbusch has no direct interest in any hospital or health insurance products.

Patient Acknowledgement and Declaration:		
I understand that there may be various options for my anaesthesia.		
I authorize my GP to release my health summary for the purpose of my Anaesthesia.		
I understand that there is often an out-of-pocket expense for Anaesthesia, as described in page 2.		
I understand that there are potential risks and complications, as described on page 2.		
Estimates: Fee:	Rebates:	Out-of-pocket:
I understand that most health insurance companies require a signed declaration such as this to access their higher 'Gap Cover' rebates.		
I understand that a \$100.00 handling fee is applied if the account is not settled within six (6) weeks of the issue date. An additional \$100.00 collection fee is applied if the account is still outstanding after twelve (12) weeks.		
I'd like a consultation prior to the day (please circle)	Yes	No
I consent to contact by SMS (please circle)	Yes	No
I would like a quote (please circle and send us this form)	Yes	No
Signature:	Date: / / 202	Best time to call is:

For more information, please see – www.douglasfahlbusch.com

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- Please return to Dr Fahlbusch today -

- **Press '1'** for Anaesthesia enquiries
- **Press '2'** for Anaesthesia quotes

ABOUT ANAESTHESIA

General Anaesthesia is used for most procedures and is a state where consciousness is lost in a controlled way. **Sedation** is used for simple procedures. **Local (Regional) Anaesthesia** can be used for pain relief in both.

Monitoring is used continuously. The functioning of your vital organs and body systems is supervised and maintained, and a record is kept of medications and techniques used. Note that the hospital keeps a copy of this information for seven (7) years and we may do so as well in case of future of anaesthesia. We would be pleased to provide you with a summary and/ or copies of this information if requested.

Medications + Fasting: See also bit.ly/DrFMed:

- Continue** most medications, esp. for heart, lungs & reflux with a sip of water when fasting.
- Cease** blood thinners (e.g. warfarin, clopidogrel) for 3-7 days (check with cardiologist first)
- Cease** diabetes medications (insulin and tablets) while fasting, with usually half dose for the last meal.
Note "Gliflozin" medications need to be stopped three (3) days prior.
- Smoking:** please cease at least 24 hours prior, to decrease chances of wound and chest infection
- Fasting** from solid food is required for at least 6 hours, 4 hours for drinks, and 2 hours for clear fluids and medications *before admission* (including gastrolyte, 'DEX' or sport drinks). Please fast from solid food for 12 hours if you have diabetes, delayed gastric emptying, gastric band or use ozempic-type medications.
This minimizes the risk of regurgitation before, during or after anaesthesia, which can seriously damage the lungs.

Risks. There are risks associated with anaesthesia and surgery. Fortunately, they are mostly rare, and Australia is reported to have one of the best standards of anaesthesia care in the world. However, risks increase with obesity, smoking, co-existing medical conditions and complex surgery.

Risks include:

- **Infrequent:** nausea, vomiting, sore throat, bruising/ pain at injection, muscle aches, headache, dizzy
- **Rare risks:** breathing difficulty, nerve injury, allergy, teeth/ lip/ tongue injury, infection and blood clots
- **Extremely rare:** awareness, eye injury, brain/ spinal cord injury, heart attack, lung/ liver/ kidney damage

ABOUT THE ANAESTHESIA ACCOUNT

You will receive an account for professional anaesthesia services, separate from surgical and hospital fees. The fee only covers the anaesthesia for the operation, and not post-operative care. This account increases with the complexity and duration of the anaesthesia, which may not relate to the difficulty of the surgery. Clinic consultations or post-operative visits (if they occur) may be not covered. An estimate can be given of the likely anaesthesia fee for *your* operation – please tick the box over page, call 08 8554 6078 option '2', or email anaesthesia@douglasfahlbusch.com.

Why is there an out-of-pocket?

Most health funds calculate their anaesthesia rebates from Medicare rebates, which have fallen behind inflation and practice costs. The Medicare rebate covers approximately 25% of the ASA / AMA maximum recommended fee, with health fund rebates covering another 5% - 25% (depending on the health fund). Visit www.asa.org.au For more information. For out of pocket quotes, please send in this form or contact us above.

Can I reduce my 'out-of-pocket' expense?

Private health insurance companies often have two levels of rebate, with the higher level of rebate known as a 'Gap Cover' scheme. This can help lessen your out-of-pocket expense but is only applied if it allows co-payments for anaesthesia accounts, or if a concession is made. If you wish to seek a concession, it is recommended that you do so before paying the account, to increase the likelihood that you will be able to receive the higher rebate.

When do I receive my account?

This will usually arrive after your anaesthesia. Usually we can send your account to the health fund on your behalf, with any out-of-pocket billed to you. For 'non-copayment' funds we send you the whole account, with a discount if you pay your account in full within 2 weeks. You then claim the health fund and Medicare benefits for yourself. Alternatively, you could send your account to the health insurance company and Medicare, and then send in these cheques with any out-of-pocket payment - this is often a lengthy process that makes it difficult to receive the early payment discount.

Note that we prefer BPay or EFT. Cheques can be accepted. Credit card payments can be made via bit.ly/DrFaPay or over the phone, although this incurs a merchant fee up to 2.5%.

Please feel free to raise any questions or concerns regarding your anaesthesia or your account. If you have concerns after your anaesthesia, please advise me as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully,

Douglas Fahlbusch