

Private Hospital Fees Explained

When you go into a private hospital for treatment, there are four components to the cost of your operation and stay.

Surgeon's Fees

These are the fees charged by your surgeon to conduct your surgical procedure and may also include an assistant's fee for laparoscopic or major surgeries. Dr Kotasthane's fees are based on those recommended by the Australian Medical Association. These fees are reflective of running costs for private specialist practices.

The Australian Government sets a fee for a range of procedures and tests known as the Medicare Benefits Schedule. Usually, with a private hospital admission, Medicare pays 75% of the MBS item fee, and the health fund pays the other 25% of the MBS fee. The rest of those costs, up to the AMA rate, is the gap.

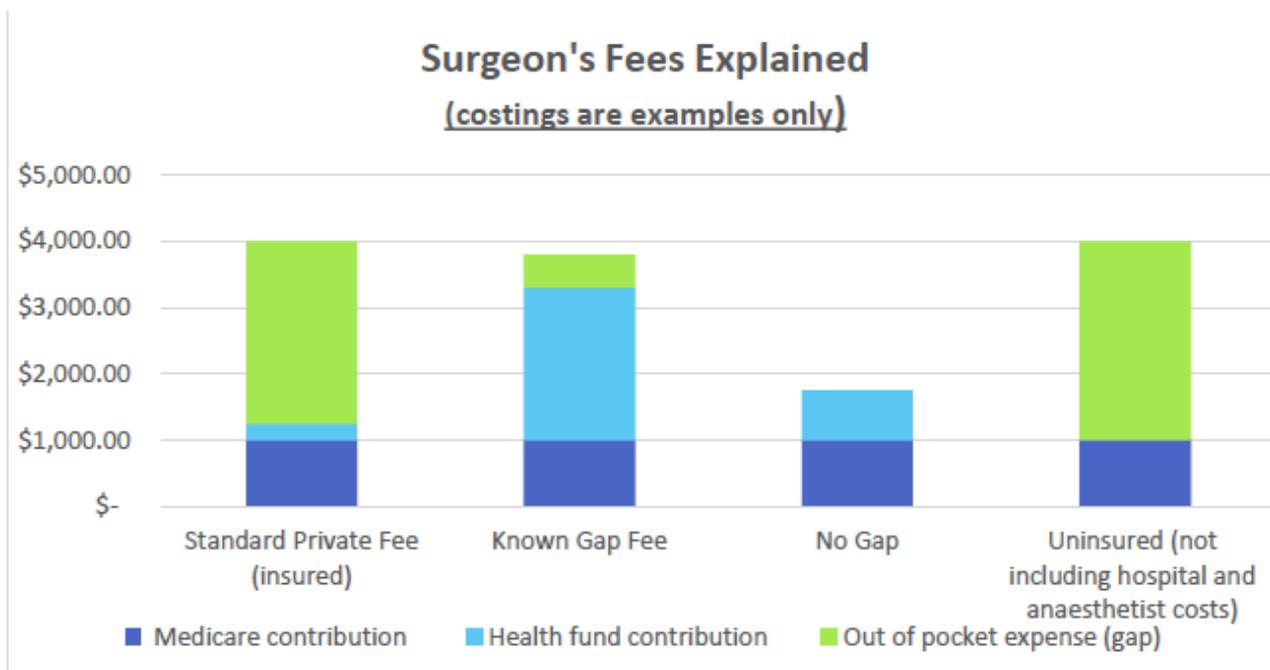
Known Gap Surgeon's Fees

The Known Gap Scheme is where the surgeon agrees a capped cost dictated by the fund, which caps your out of pocket costs. For most funds, this capped maximum gap cost is \$500, but some funds have a \$400 maximum gap. What this means, is that the health fund agrees to pay more than just the 25% of the MBS item fee -- if the surgeon will agree to the slight change in price. This is significantly less expensive to you than the private fees where the out of pocket costs can be higher (see graph below)

The surgeon's fee is payable two weeks prior to your scheduled operation. Please contact reception on 5335 6604 to pay over the phone, or you can attend in person.

What if my fund doesn't participate in known gap?

If your fund does not participate in a Known Gap agreement, the private fee will apply. You will need to pay the total fee and receive your rebate from your fund. If you should wish to change to a fund who will participate in a Known Gap arrangement (and you swap to a similar level of cover), you should not have to serve the waiting period again. This is protected by law.



Assistant's Fee

With most operations, another medical practitioner is required as an assistant. The Assistant's fee may be charged over and above other fees depending on the requirement of the procedure.

Hospital Fees

This is the fee payable to the hospital for costs related to the operating theatre, admission and hospital stay. It is separate to the surgeon's fee. The excess payable is dependent upon your fund and level of cover. Check with your fund for more information, or if you are being admitted to Dudley Private Hospital, they will do a health fund check when you submit your paperwork and will advise you if any excess applies to your admission. This is payable to Dudley on the day of your procedure.

Anaesthetists Fees

Please contact your anaesthetist on (02) 6362 8181 to check if there is any out of pocket fee related to your operation.

Pathology fees

You may also have a private fee associated with your pathology results (e.g. for urine sample/ tissue sample analysis).

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT THE FEES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE BASED ON MEDICARE CHANGES, HEALTH FUND CHANGES, AND INFLATION PRESSURES