

FEE INFORMATION

For Obstetric Patients Requiring Anaesthesia Care

Will I need an Anaesthetist?

A Specialist Anaesthetist may have an important role to play in the safe delivery of your baby. An Anaesthetist is a specialist medical doctor with 5-7 years postgraduate training and will be involved if you require an **epidural** for pain relief during labour and/or if you require anaesthesia for a **caesarean section**.

Am I Guaranteed Anaesthesia Care?

A dedicated group of Obstetric Anaesthetists provide Obstetric Anaesthesia services at Prince of Wales Private Hospital. They participate in a **24-hour, 365-day year-round Roster** to ensure a Specialist Anaesthetist is readily available for obstetric patients. The roster system may mean that if you require more than one anaesthetic procedure (e.g. epidural pain relief during labour followed later by anaesthesia for emergency caesarean section) a different Anaesthetist may attend for each procedure. The Anaesthetists who provide this service at the hospital are independent private practitioners. They are not employed by the hospital, and as such **each Anaesthetist determines their own fees**.

How much will my Anaesthetist charge?

Often it is not possible to provide a definitive cost of your anaesthesia care prior to delivery. This is because it is not possible to predict when Anaesthesia care will be required, the number and type of Anaesthesia services you may require and who your Anaesthetist will be. You may have a different Anaesthetist for different services, and **each Anaesthetist will set their own fee**. This Fee Information Sheet serves to provide some understanding of how Anaesthesia Fees are calculated and the fees you may incur.

How will my Anaesthetic Fee be calculated?

Anaesthesia Fees vary according to:

- ◆ Type and duration of the procedure(s)
- ◆ Complexity of procedure
- ◆ Patient's physical status
- ◆ Time of procedure (e.g. outside of regular working hours)
- ◆ Emergency component (e.g. an unscheduled caesarean section)
- ◆ Number of occasions an Anaesthetist is called in to attend to you

Consequently, Anaesthesia Fees can vary considerably.

Anaesthesia Fees are calculated using Medicare Benefit Schedule (MBS) Item Numbers.

For Anaesthesia Items, there is a unit-based system with each Item Number ascribed a certain number of units. The Australian Society of Anaesthetists (ASA) provides a "Relative Value Guide" (RVG) recommended maximum unit value, which is currently \$110.00 (c. Nov 2025). Medicare currently provides rebates based on an MBS unit value of \$23.10. Indexation of the MBS unit value has stagnated over many years

Each Anaesthetist sets their own unit value (usually below the \$110 maximum) based on individual practice variables. The fee estimates provided overleaf are based on a unit value range of \$75-\$95 which covers the unit values set by most Anaesthetists.

What about Private Health Funds' "Known-Gap" Schemes?

Private Health Funds' "Known-Gap" arrangements (where a patient adds to the Private Health Fund's contribution) generally cap the patient's contribution at \$500.00. Unfortunately, limitations imposed by the Health Funds has resulted in this fee arrangement **not being routinely used by Anaesthetists** in this setting. Such arrangements, however, may be utilised in varying circumstances.

Can I ask my Anaesthetist about my Fee?

For elective procedures, your Obstetrician can provide you the details of the Anaesthetist booked for your care. You are encouraged to contact their office directly for specific Fee Information. For non-elective procedures (e.g. epidurals in labour, emergency caesarean section) the Delivery Suite can provide you with the details of the on-call Anaesthetist. Feel free to ask questions about the fees that may be incurred.

What Fees should I expect?

The tables overleaf provide an estimated range of fees that may be incurred for the indicated services and have been calculated using the Item Numbers relevant to the care provided. This is not an exhaustive list of all potential interventions that may arise but reflects the most common Obstetric Anaesthesia services. The information detailed in the tables provided, does not account for your individual circumstances or replace specific information provided by your own Anaesthetist.

Note that the provision of after-hours procedures and emergency services (e.g. after-hours epidural and emergency caesarean sections) generally attract a significantly higher fee. They also attract higher Private Health Fund and Medicare rebates.

Range of Fees you can Expect for Your Anaesthesia Care

Epidural

8am to 8pm Weekdays

| Item Number | Units | Description of service | Fee based on Unit Value Range \$75 - \$95 | Medicare & Health Fund Rebate |
|---------------------------------------|-------|---|--|-------------------------------|
| 17680 | 4 | Consultation prior to major regional block with a patient in labour | \$300 - \$380 | |
| 18216 | 8 | Commencement of major regional block, including up to 1 hour of continuous attendance by the medical practitioner | \$600 - \$760 | |
| Total Fee | | | \$900 - \$1140 | \$322.85 |
| Range of out-of-pocket expense | | | \$577.15 - \$817.15 | |

Out-of-hours Epidural

8pm to 8am weekdays

Weekends and Public Holidays

| Item Number | Units | Description of service | Fee based on Unit Value Range \$75 - \$95 | Medicare & Health Fund Rebate |
|---------------------------------------|-------|---|--|-------------------------------|
| 17680* | 4 | Consultation prior to major regional block with a patient in labour | \$300 - \$380 | |
| 18226 | 15 | Commencement of major regional block, including up to 1 hour of continuous attendance by the medical practitioner, for a patient in labour, where the service is provided after hours | \$1125 - \$1425 | |
| Total Fee | | | \$1425- \$1805 | \$433.55 |
| Range of out-of-pocket expense | | | \$991.45 - \$1371.45 | |

Emergency Caesarean section

8am to 8pm Weekdays

| Item Number | Units | Description of service | Fee based on Unit Value Range \$75 - \$95 | Medicare & Health Fund Rebate |
|---------------------------------------|-------|--|--|-------------------------------|
| 17610 | 2 | Pre-anaesthesia consultation of up to 15 minutes | \$150 - \$190 | |
| 20850 | 12 | Anaesthesia for caesarean section | \$900 - \$1140 | |
| 23065 | 6 | Anaesthesia care time - 1:16 hours to 1:30 hours (duration and item number/fee may vary from case to case) | \$450 - \$570 | |
| 22031 | 5 | Intrathecal or epidural injection (initial) of a therapeutic substance for postoperative pain management | \$375 - \$475 | |
| 25020 | 2 | Emergency Surgery | \$150 - 190 | |
| Total Fee | | | \$2025 - \$2565 | \$628.45 |
| Range of out-of-pocket expense | | | \$1396.55 - \$1936.55 | |

Out-of-hours Emergency Caesarean section

8pm to 8am weekdays

Weekends and Public Holidays

| Item Number | Units | Description of service | Fee based on Unit Value Range \$75 - \$95 | Medicare & Health Fund Rebate |
|---------------------------------------|-------|--|--|-------------------------------|
| 17610* | 2 | Pre-anaesthesia consultation of up to 15 minutes | \$150 - \$190 | |
| 20850 | 12 | Anaesthesia for caesarean section | \$900 - \$1140 | |
| 23065 | 6 | Anaesthesia care time - 1:16 hours to 1:30 hours (duration and item number/fee may vary from case to case) | \$450 - \$570 | |
| 22031 | 5 | Intrathecal or epidural injection (initial) of a therapeutic substance for postoperative pain management | \$375 - \$475 | |
| 25025 | | Modifier - Emergency after hours anaesthesia (calculated as a 50% loading of items 20850, 23065 & 22031) | \$862.50- \$1092.50 | |
| Total Fee | | | \$2737.50- \$3467.50 | 847.90 |
| Range of out-of-pocket expense | | | \$1889.60 - \$2619.60 | |

*These items may be replaced by Item 600 for emergency attendances between 11pm & 7am and attracts 6 units