Anaesthetic Fee Guidelines

In 2003 the **Competition Commission** announced that it was investigating the setting of Medical Aid Rates as this amounted to **price fixing and contravening the Competition Act**.

Hence, there is **no medical aid rate**. Each medical aid and doctor sets their own prices. From January 2011 each medical aid has set its own tariff. This is called the **Scheme Rate.** These differ from funder to funder.

As there are approximately 100 medical aids in South Africa each with several plans and payment rates, it will be impossible for the anaesthesiologist to provide the amount that your medical aid will pay.

Your Anaesthetic Account would be submitted on your behalf for processing and payment. In the event that the Medical Aid fails to pay the full amount charged, kindly note that you would be responsible for the outstanding balance. You are advised to consult with your medical aid prior to your anaesthetic regarding the level of cover they will provide. If you require an estimated cost of your procedure beforehand, please contact our office.

Anaesthetic fee structure

The coding on the anaesthetic accounts is derived from the Fee Guidelines of the South African Society of Anaesthesiologists. The anaesthetic fee comprises of 3 separate chargeable entities: a pre-operative risk assessment, anaesthetic time and a procedure-specific anaesthetic fee. Additionally, various factors can affect the cost of the final amount. See list of factors below

Pre-Operative Consultation

The anaesthesiologist will visit you before the operation to assess any patient risk factors and to plan your anaesthetic management. This may take place in the ward or the surgical waiting area depending on your procedure, time of admission etc.

Procedure fee

A fee calculated according to the anaesthetic difficulty of the indicated surgical procedure.

Time-based anaesthetic procedure fee

Depending on the duration of your procedure / operation, a time-based anaesthetic fee will be charged.

Factors that may incur additional cost

- Unplanned or after hour procedures,
- Morbid obesity,
- Hypotensive procedures,
- Specialized techniques used to manage your pain,
- Insertion of specialized intravascular lines and
- Care in the Intensive Care Unit.
- Patients in the prone position during the procedure.
- Babies less than a month old
- Patients older than 70 years of age.
- Orthopaedic modifiers depending on where the operation is.
- Should the patient has systemic illnesses causing functional impairment
- Procedures to head or neck
- Should the patient have to be placed in an abnormal position for surgery

Legal Notification

- Please note that your Anaesthetic Fee is a separate account from your hospital and other accounts (i.e.: surgeon, radiology services, lab fees or hospital bill).
- Please note that the **Anaesthetic contract is between you the patient and the anaesthesiologist**. Irrespective of the authorization of the procedure and the promises to pay by the medical aid, the patient and the main member **ultimately are responsible for this account**
- **Most medical aid plans do not pay for an anaesthetic bill in full**. This may range from 25% to 100% of this anaesthetic account. **As a result, there may be a co-payment which is a top-up for this deficit.** This co-payment may or may not be recovered from my medical aid.
- Most Doctors charge interest at 2% per month on all overdue balances over 30 days and patients must understand that the practice reserves the right to employ the services of a Credit Bureau to trace or list patients as a slow or delinquent payer should they not pay the full amount owed. Patients will be responsible for all legal costs involved in debt collection for unpaid accounts over 60 days.

- For the purposes of this agreement the hospital address is the "Domicillium citandi et executandi" and that it is your responsibility to inform the practice in writing of any change of address that may occur subsequent to the date of surgery

If you have any queries or concerns regarding your Anaesthetic, please feel free to call Dr Salejee on 0845569917.
Further information regarding your Anaesthetic may be obtained at http://www.sasaweb.com/Patients/FAQ

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