



In accordance with the regulations of the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) and the Consumer Protection Act (CPA) we are obliged to make you aware of the fees related to your procedure. Please read and complete the form below.

Information on billing policy - by consenting to your anaesthetic with Dr Padoa you agree that:

- You understand that medical scheme plans offer different levels of benefit for anaesthetic services and range from full cover to partial cover of the total cost dependant on the medical scheme and choice of plan
- You understand that the anaesthetic fees are based on the time spent in theatre, the level of risk and complexity of the procedure and may include risk/expertise-based modifiers e.g. bone surgery, obesity, elderly, blood pressure control, emergencies etc.
- You acknowledge that the anaesthesiologist will bill a time-based rate and any quote assumes average surgical time, average complexity, and excludes any modifier (i.e. a code charged for specific procedures that are complex, or pose an additional risk (for example obesity), or procedure fee (such as an epidural block)). Should any of these change, understand that the final amount payable may differ from the initial quotation.
- You understand that the co-payment (above that which is covered by my medical scheme) will depend on my medical scheme and my choice of plan for that scheme & that it is your responsibility to ascertain from my medical scheme what the approximate shortfall will be.
- If you are an adult, the parent or guardian of a child, understand that the consent to receive healthcare, and the cost thereof is my responsibility (even if you are not the principal medical scheme member) and as such you are liable for the full payment of the account (including the medical scheme portion should they not cover the costs of the anaesthetic services).
- You understand that should an attorney or other debt collecting agency be appointed to recover overdue amounts, you will be held liable for the costs thereof on the Attorney and Own Client Scale.
- **You confirm that the nominated postal address, email address & phone numbers are correct for the purposes of receiving the account. You further agree that should these addresses and phone numbers change I will give one week's prior notice for such changes to become effective.**
- You consent for your information to be securely stored and accessed only by the medical specialists and staff of the COPA Anaesthesiology Inc. in compliance with the terms of the Protection of Personal Information Act 3 of 2014. You understand that the information collected will be for the express use of generating accounts and contacting me regarding said accounts.
- You agree to this information being shared with the billing company, medical scheme, collection agency and medical protection of COPA Anaesthesiology Inc. as well as with the anaesthetic professional society SASA & HPCSA should this be required.
- You hereby give permission to COPA Anaesthesiology Inc. to act on your behalf with (but not limited to) the Council of Medical Schemes (CMS) relating to complaints and disputes against my medical scheme and its administrators. In this regard, you also give permission for disclosure of medical details pertinent to the case in question including underlying medical condition as well as the nature of the procedure undertaken. In the event of any claim, complaint or grievance, you shall prior to taking legal action, promptly initiate a free and confidential pre-mediation meeting with an accredited mediator appointed by South African Society of Anaesthesiologists (SASA).
- I further understand that the anaesthesiologist is not a designated service provider (DSP) and therefore anaesthesia costs including those for prescribed minimum benefit (PMB) conditions may not be covered in full by my medical insurance.

**QUOTATION**

- Prior to your surgery you will be provided with a quotation for your anaesthetic.
- This is an estimate of a standard procedure. Should the procedure be more complex or complications arise it may also attract a higher procedure code and thus the fee will increase.
- The estimate does not include a fee for a Body Mass Index (BMI) of > 35. Should your BMI be greater than 35 your fee will be increased by 1.5 times your quote. (This is due to the increased complexity and anaesthetic risks associated with obesity)
- The estimate does not include any specialist interventions that may be required like nerve blocks (when the anaesthesiologist must inject a nerve with local anaesthetic to prevent pain), central lines (when the anaesthesiologist must place a catheter into the veins of your neck or chest). Please enquire about those prior to your procedure.
- Please note that the first 30 minutes are the most expensive as they include the fee for the pre-operative assessment (this is the questions asked and examination done by the anaesthesiologist).
- Please contact your surgeon's rooms for a time estimate for your procedure. Remember that the anaesthesiologists fees exclude hospital or theatre costs and the surgeon's costs.
- Please understand that even with a time estimate, if the procedure continues for longer than the estimate, you will be billed accordingly.
- Please contact your medical scheme and enquire as to how much of the fee they will cover. If you have so-called "gap cover", please ensure that you make the necessary arrangements with them on any co-pays that may be attracted and advise us that you do have gap cover.
- As much as the practice is not contracted to any medical schemes, as a courtesy to you we will submit the account to your medical scheme and then present you with the balance of the account for payment.
- **If your medical scheme pays their portion into your bank account, that amount is due to be paid to us immediately. You will have 7 days to arrange this payment.**
- In the unfortunate event of you not having benefits for the given procedure, not completing authorisation properly or any other reason beyond a fault with our billing procedures, you will be required to settle the account then due, in full, immediately.
- Some medical schemes exclude, do not recognise or reimburse some of the SASA (South African Society of Anaesthetics) and SAMA (South African Medical Association) approved codes. This can be queried directly with your scheme.
- Regardless of your plan you will be required to sign all documentation as you are ultimately responsible for all fees.