

ESTIMATE OF HOSPITAL FEES & PAYMENT ADVICE

It is important that you understand the fees and charges that may be associated with your admission to hospital. Please read the information provided below carefully and be sure to contact the hospital, your health fund or your doctor if you have any questions or do not understand this information.

While the information on this form largely relates to the fees and charges you may receive from the hospital, it is important that you are aware that you will also receive separate accounts from others involved in your care including your Surgeon, Anesthetist, Surgical Assistant and other doctors who may become involved in your care. In addition to doctor's charges, you may also receive bills from Pathology companies for tests, Diagnostic Imaging such as x-rays, Pharmacy and Allied Health practitioners such as Physiotherapists or Occupational therapists for example. The Estimation Only of Hospital Services does not include the costs of these separate services.

Radiology providers (such as St Vincent's Private Radiology and MIA) supply radiological services to inpatients at St Vincent's Private Hospital. They usually bill directly to your health insurance however you may have to pay an out of pocket fee if you do not hold a pension or health care card. Some health funds do not participate in direct billing (NIB, HCF and others). In this case, you will receive a bill from these radiology providers and/or MRI, ECHO in-patient services which you will be required to submit to Medicare with a two-way claim form.

The Estimate

The hospital provides a written 'Estimate Only of Hospital Services' on arrival for all patients undergoing routine admission at the hospital. It is important to understand that the estimate you will receive is based:

- Upon information and item numbers provided to the hospital by your doctor prior to your admission. Your doctor may need to vary your treatment from that anticipated prior to admission to ensure the best outcome for you. If your treatment does vary from that anticipated prior to admission, there will likely be additional fees (including hospital fees) that you are required to pay.
- There may be specific limitations or exclusion in your health insurance policy that are not currently known to us, and therefore these are not taken into account as part of our estimate.
- There may be incidental expenses that you incur that are not possible to anticipate in this estimate.

Please note it is your responsibility to contact your health fund prior to admission to confirm you are covered for the treatment required during your admission. We will ask you if you have checked your cover when you are admitted.

Out of Pocket Costs:

Out of pocket costs associated with your admission will vary depending upon your level of insurance, how long you have held that insurance, any exclusions or restrictions on your policy if your admission is related to an accident or a workplace injury, if you eligible to claim under Veterans Affairs, or if you have simply chosen to pay for yourself.

It is a condition of your admission that you agree to meet the full amount of your hospital fees not covered by your health fund or other insurer, for example if your health fund or insurer refuse payment of your claim for any reason, including for example if an exclusion applies, or you fail to remain financial or maintain your current level of cover.

You are required to pay the total estimate of out of pockets costs on or prior to the day of admission to hospital. If any payments are outstanding following discharge, we will contact you. If, after several attempts to contact you, this is unsuccessful, we may contact your nominated Next of Kin however no financial or clinical details will be discussed without your consent.

Nursing Home Type Care

If you no longer require acute medical care, this is considered to be Nursing Home Type Care. Private Health Insurers only pay minimum benefits towards this type of care therefore there will be additional costs for each day of hospital accommodation payable by the patient or family. These costs will be explained prior to being charged.