BILLING GUIDE · INFORMED FINANCIAL CONSENT

IFC checklist for anaesthetists: *what to include, and when.*

Include in every estimate

- [ ] Your name and practice contact details
- [ ] Likely MBS item numbers, with the expected units or time
- [ ] Your estimated fee, or a range (anaesthesia is time-based, so a range is acceptable)
- [ ] The expected Medicare benefit (75% of the MBS schedule fee for a private in-hospital service)
- [ ] The expected fund benefit, and whether you are billing no-gap, known-gap or outside the fund's scheme
- [ ] The patient's estimated out-of-pocket gap
- [ ] What could change the fee: a longer operation, an extra procedure, a complication, an after-hours or emergency start
- [ ] When and how to pay, including any prepayment request
- [ ] A note asking the patient to confirm their cover with Medicare and their fund

Timing and records

- [ ] Send it in writing before the day, early enough for questions (we send ours 7 days before surgery)
- [ ] Record the patient's acceptance with the account; Bupa's scheme can ask for evidence on audit
- [ ] Use the pre-anaesthesia visit to confirm the estimate, not to raise the fee for the first time
- [ ] If the fee ends up above the estimate, explain why before or with the account

Special cases

- [ ] Emergencies: give fee information as soon as practicable after the service
- [ ] Covering a colleague's list: generally charge the fee already quoted, unless you disclose otherwise in time
- [ ] Known gap: Medibank, Bupa and nib cap it at $500; check the patient's fund terms, especially for long cases
- [ ] DVA, workers' compensation and TAC: check the scheme's own fee rules before quoting any gap

Sources (checked 24 October 2026): Medical Board of Australia, Good medical practice, s4.5.3 (2020); AMA, Informed financial consent position statement (2024); ASA-PS04 Informed Financial Consent (rev. 2019); Commonwealth Ombudsman IFC factsheet (2026); Avant, IFC for anaesthetists (2026); Medibank GapCover, Bupa Medical Gap Scheme and nib MediGap terms. General information only, not legal advice.

Fast Tracking Anaesthetic Billing Services · 97 Forest St, Bendigo VIC 3550 · (03) 5323 0275 · fasttracking.com.au