

The General Medical Council and the Association of Anaesthetists require anaesthetists to inform their patients of contractual terms before treatment. I hope this page will not appear too daunting and will avoid any misunderstandings about our fees

If a patient's account is to be paid by an embassy, solicitor, company or other third party, it is the responsibility of the patient, or the parent if the patient is under 18, to provide Anaesthesia Ltd (Anaesthesia) with a valid letter of guarantee. If the guarantee is subsequently withdrawn, for whatever reason, the patient or parent will be responsible for payment.

If a patient is insured by Axa PPP or BUPA, it is their responsibility to ensure that each procedure and item of service is covered by their policy. The patient, or parent if the patient is under 18, will be responsible for all fees for uninsured procedures. The amount payable in such circumstances will be Anaesthesia's normal fee regardless of whether Anaesthesia has previously indicated a lower fee.

In all other cases the contract is between Anaesthesia and the patient, or their parent if the child is under 18. If one parent has not specifically told Anaesthesia that they will accept responsibility, both parents are severally responsible.

Patients are referred to Anaesthesia and its consultant anaesthetists by other doctors, hospital and various third parties. There is no contractual relationship between Anaesthesia and any of these individuals or companies. Anaesthesia is not responsible nor bound by any quotations or undertakings made by third parties including insurance companies.

Anaesthesia will provide a quotation on request. The quotation will be based on the procedures listed by the patient or parent. If different or additional procedures or consultations are performed, additional fees may be charged. Quotations assume a normal duration of anaesthesia, normal length of stay in hospital and intensive care, an absence of complications, and no intensive care unless the procedure would routinely involve intensive care. Failure to obtain a quotation, for whatever reason, does not alter the patient's or parent's obligation to pay Anaesthesia's charges in full.

Anaesthesia reserves the right to charge a cancellation fee if the procedure is cancelled for whatever reason.

Anaesthesia will send an invoice to the address provided to the hospital and or surgeon by the patient or parent. If the patient or parent provides an email address, Anaesthesia will send all invoices and subsequent correspondence to that address and assume the email will be downloaded and read. Anaesthesia is not responsible for any discrepancies between the procedures listed on its invoice and those of the surgeon and hospital. If the patient disagrees with the procedures listed, he or she should contact Anaesthesia immediately. Any

dates, procedure codes and fee breakdowns are provided merely to assist the patient make a valid insurance claim. The total charged reflects the anaesthesia provided and will not necessarily change if the surgical code is altered. Hospitals may calculate dates on a separate basis. Procedure codes relate to surgical operations and are obtained from surgeons and other parties. No responsibility or liability is accepted for discrepancies.

Anaesthesia is not able to submit, process or manage insurance claims. The patient or parent is totally responsible for making such claims and obtaining benefit. Failure by the insurance company to make payment or full payment for whatever reason does not release the patient or parent from responsibility for paying Anaesthesia in full. Anaesthesia will, in line with standard practice, provide information to insurance companies at their request unless the patient has indicated otherwise, but such information is provided at our discretion merely to assist our patients and within the company's logistical capabilities.

Payment is due in full on receipt of Anaesthesia's invoice. Where patients have indicated that they will claim against a UK insurance company, Anaesthesia may, at its discretion, allow up to 60 days credit. It is the patient's or parent's responsibility to ensure a valid claim is made and payment is obtained within this time.

In the absence of prior written agreement to the contrary, failure to make payment within 28 days of the date of the invoice (60 days where the patient has provided evidence of a UK insurance policy covering the services) will result in the matter being referred to Anaesthesia's Debt Collection Agents whose charges of 25% plus VAT will be added to, and payable with the invoice debt. Anaesthesia Ltd may at its sole discretion add interest at the rate of 2% over Bank of England base rate to all invoices unpaid after 60 days.