



Patient Information

Surgery Patients only

NOTE: These instructions do not apply to patients having procedures with local anaesthetics

For your safety, please arrange to have a responsible adult drive you home and stay with you overnight following your surgery. We urge you to not leave the hospital by yourself. We will notify your driver/carer of your estimated time of discharge.

Failure to follow instructions listed below may result in cancellation/delay of your surgery so we recommend that you go through the following checklist carefully.

Before Surgery

- Check the exact date and time of admission
- Do not smoke for 12 hours prior to surgery
- If you develop a cold, fever or other illness between now and the day of surgery, please contact and advise your Doctor

Day of Surgery

- Please shower or bath prior to leaving home on day of surgery. Avoid the use of talcum powder, deodorant, make-up and nail polish
- Please note: If you are having an orthopaedic procedure or major general surgery you will be required to have a shower following admission to hospital
- Do not eat or drink anything for 8 hours prior to your surgery, unless otherwise instructed by your Anaesthetist/hospital staff
- Please bring current medications with you and ensure adequate supply for the duration of hospital stay
- Wear comfortable clothing
- Do not wear jewellery to hospital

After Surgery

- Discuss any problems or questions that you have with your Doctor or Nursing staff. Once at home, please follow your Doctor's instructions
- You should not drink alcoholic beverages for 24 hours
- Follow diet and medication instructions given to you by the Doctor/Nurse
- Arrange follow-up appointment with your Doctor

Please be advised that if general anaesthesia or sedation is administered:

- You must avoid driving vehicles or using dangerous equipment

- You should not make any major decisions, or do anything requiring you to be alert or coordinated for the next 24 hours (or as advised by your Doctor)
- You should not sign any legal documents for 24 hours

Privacy Policy

The Mater Hospitals comply with the Commonwealth Privacy Act and all other State legislative requirements in relation to the management of personal information. To this end, our privacy policy and a consent form relating to the collection and use of your health information is enclosed. Further information on our Privacy Policy is available in our "Patient Services Information" Folder, located in your room.

We need you to carefully read the attached sheet – 'Important Information Regarding Health Funds and Privacy'. Please sign and return it to the Mater in the prepaid envelope, PRIOR TO YOUR ADMISSION.

Prior to coming to Hospital

To reduce delays in your admission we need you to contact us before coming to hospital so that we have your personal information.

Prior to ringing please ensure that you have all the information that is required on the 'Registration' form.

Otherwise:

- Complete the enclosed 'Registration' form and return to the hospital in the prepaid envelope at least one (1) week prior to hospitalisation

Or

- Fax completed registration form to:
 - Rockhampton (07) 49313477
 - Gladstone (07) 49713703

What to bring to Hospital

- Admission letter from your Doctor
- Consent form
- X-rays relevant to present admission
- All of your current medications
- Health Fund membership number and level of cover
- Entitlement cards (ie Health Care Card, Pension Card, Veteran Affairs Card, Safety Net Number)
- Medicare Card
- Personal toiletries (eg soap, shampoo, toothbrush, tissues, sanitary napkins) (Optional for Day Surgery)
- Sleep wear, gown, footwear (not required for Day Surgery)

- Cotton underwear (except for the following procedures – gynaecology, abdominal, urological and joint replacements)
- If you feel the cold in an air-conditioned environment, you may need to bring some warm garments.

What Not to Bring

- Jewellery
- Large sums of money
- Other valuables

The Mater cannot accept responsibility for safekeeping of patients' possessions including jewellery, watches and money.

Accommodation

The Mater provides single and shared accommodation. Sometimes, despite our best efforts, we may not be able to provide you with a single room. If you have requested a single room and one is not available at admission time, our staff will endeavour to meet your request at the earliest opportunity.

Insured Patients

Our staff will assist you to complete and authorise your Health Fund Authority form at the time of discharge. This form allows payment direct from your Fund to the Hospital. Excesses and co-payments need to be paid prior to Admission where possible or on day of admission. Outstanding balances for pharmaceuticals and telephone are to be settled at the time of discharge. Payment by cash, cheque, eftpos or credit card is acceptable.

Workcover

Written confirmation must be obtained from Workcover Queensland prior to admission. If prior approval is not obtained, patients will be responsible for costs incurred.

Uninsured, overseas travel insurance, Or Third party Claims

The estimated account is payable in full on admission and balance is payable on discharge. You are directly responsible for recovery of your expenses.

Veterans' Affairs

Should you have any enquiries relating to your hospitalisation, please contact our DVA Liaison Officer.

It is essential that "white card" holders obtain prior approval from DVA by calling 1800 555 254 prior to admission.