RED GROUP ANAESTHETIC INFORMATION FOR YOUR SURGERY

RED Group Anaesthetists is a group of specialist anaesthetists who work in association with each other to provide a more comprehensive service. We are still independent practitioners, and you will receive an account in the name of the specific anaesthetist who provided a service to you.

As you will probably only see your anaesthetist on the day of your operation, this information sheet explains what you need to know to ensure the safe conduct of your anaesthetic and operation and potential complications that may occur. It also informs you about the fees that will be charged.

MEDICAL HISTORY

You will have to complete a medical questionnaire to highlight potential problems while you are undergoing surgery and anaesthesia. Please bring information on any medical conditions you may have to the hospital with you when you are admitted for your operation.

MEDICATION

- Bring your current medication to the hospital if there is any chance you may stay overnight or need to take this medication while in the hospital.
- Bring a list of any medication that you are on or have taken in the past three months (including homeopathic and natural products).
- Bring a list of any allergies you may have.

EATING BEFORE ANAESTHESIA OR SEDATION

You need to be starved before any anaesthesia and sedation for your safety. All patients, including children, must have no food or milk products from **six hours before admission**, but may have clear fluids (water, black tea, black coffee or clear apple juice) up to **two hours** before reporting to the hospital on the day of the operation.

- **Morning surgery:** no food or milk products after midnight, clear fluids up to 5am.
- **Afternoon surgery:** no food after an early light breakfast (before 7am), clear fluids up to 10am.

TIMING OF SURGERY

Please note that while surgery for a list of patients is scheduled to start at a particular time, medical staff can only anaesthetise and operate on one patient at a time. This means your surgery may take place hours after the scheduled start time. An estimate of the start time for your procedure may be provided at the pre-anaesthetic assessment. If the surgeon offers an admission time later than the start time of a list, you may only see the anaesthetist in the theatre waiting area. If you have a medical condition or want to discuss anything with the anaesthetist, please make contact before the day of the surgery or ensure you are admitted to the ward at least one hour before the start of the list.

COMPLICATIONS DURING ANAESTHESIA

Anaesthesia is not without risk. Adverse events can occur during the application of any anaesthetic, ranging from trivial to brain damage or death. These events may occur due to reactions to anaesthetic drugs; underlying medical diseases; complications with procedures that have to be performed; or surgery. Anaesthetists have been trained to manage these complications, which may incur further medical expenses.

If a complication persists for more than 48 hours, please inform your anaesthetist or surgeon.

The following list covers some of the complications that may occur under anaesthesia or post-operatively:

COMMON COMPLICATIONS (1 to 10% of cases) Minimal treatment usually necessary.	RARE COMPLICATIONS (Less than 1 in 1 000 cases) May require further treatment.	VERY RARE COMPLICATIONS (1 in 10 000 to 1 in 200 000 cases) Often serious with long-term damage.	BRAIN DAMAGE OR DEATH (Less than 1 in 250 000 cases)
Nausea and vomiting Sore throat Shivering or feeling cold Headache Dizziness Itching Pain during injection of drugs Swelling or bruising at the infusion site Confusion or memory loss (common among the elderly)	Injuries to teeth, crowns, lips, tongue and mouth Painful muscles Difficulty urinating Difficulty breathing Visual disturbances Worsening of underlying medical conditions such as diabetes, asthma or heart disease Hoarse voice, vocal cord injuries Pressure-related injuries	Eye injuries Nerve injuries causing paralysis Lung infection Awareness of the operation Bleeding Stroke Allergic reactions/anaphylaxis Unexpected reactions to anaesthetic drugs Inherited reactions to drugs (malignant hyperthermia, scoline apnoea, porphyria)	*Due to any other complication getting more severe* Heart attacks Emboli (clots) Lack of oxygen

Complications arising due to procedures that may be performed during your anaesthesia:

INTRAVENOUS LINE	Pain, swelling, bleeding, inflammation, infection, blood clots, repeated insertions.
CENTRAL LINE	Pain; swelling; bleeding; inflammation; infection; repeated insertions; puncture of the lung, artery or nerve; blood clots.
ARTERIAL LINE	Pain, swelling, bleeding, inflammation, infection, repeated insertions, loss of blood flow to the hand leading to death of fingers.
AIRWAY MANAGEMENT	Damage to lips, teeth, tongue, palate, throat, vocal cords, hoarseness, inhalation of stomach contents (aspiration), pneumonia, obstruction of breathing, failure to maintain the airway requiring an operative procedure.
NERVE BLOCKS, SPINAL OR EPIDURAL INJECTION	Back pain, non-resolving headache, nerve damage, paralysis, headache, nausea, vomiting, infection, dizziness, shortness of breath, chest pain, pneumothorax, seizures, and drug toxicity.

AFTER AN ANAESTHETIC OR SEDATION

You will not be allowed to drive (arrange for a lift home), operate dangerous machinery or make important decisions for 24 hours after your sedation or anaesthetic. DO NOT CONSUME ALCOHOL after anaesthesia and until you have stopped all post-operative prescribed medication (such as pain killers, anti-inflammatories and antibiotics). If in doubt, please consult your treating surgeon or anaesthetist.

COST ESTIMATE

Costs of anaesthesia are calculated according to established codes and practices governed by the Health Professions Council of South Africa and relevant South African legislation (the The Health Act, Medical Schemes Act and others), and subsequently:

- have a time-based component dependent on duration of service provided;
- are higher for more difficult or complex surgeries as anaesthesia complexity increases;
- may include risk/expertise-based modifiers including but not limited to anaesthesia associated with bone surgery, obesity, paediatrics, the elderly, ICU admission, blood-pressure control, revision surgery and emergencies; and
- may include additional procedure costs or costs associated with unanticipated complications.

LATE BOOKING OF LISTS

If your anaesthetist is booked late by the surgeon, such as the afternoon before or in case of an emergency booking, we are unable to provide you with a cost estimate.

PAYMENT AGREEMENT

Anaesthetic cost estimates assume average surgical time and average complexity. The final cost inclusive of VAT at 15% may exceed or be lower than the estimated cost.

INVOICE AND PAYMENT

I confirm my understanding:

- that the anaesthetist charges for his or her service independently from the surgeon and hospital;
- of the calculation of costs as presented above and agree to pay the fee determined by the anaesthetist according to those calculations (I may obtain a unique formal cost estimate from the anaesthetist's accounts department on request);
- that the fee is due and payable immediately on completion of service;
- that I am personally responsible for payment and not my medical scheme;
- that medical insurance companies/medical schemes offer cover at different rates;
- that my specific medical scheme plan may not cover the anaesthetist's fees in full, and that I will remain liable for any shortfall between what my medical scheme pays and what is charged by my anaesthetist; and
- that RED Group is not a designated service provider (DSP) or "contracted to" most medical insurance companies and therefore anaesthesia costs, including those for prescribed minimum benefit (PMB) conditions, may not be covered in full by my medical insurance.

PAYMENT

- I agree that interest will be charged in accordance with the National Credit Act under incidental debt up to 2% per month on accounts that have not been settled.
- I understand that payments on outstanding accounts will be allocated in order: interest, costs, then capital.
- I undertake to pay all legal, debt collection and tracing costs on the attorney and own client scale and charges as stipulated by the Debt Collectors Act 114 of 1998 relating to the recovery of fees outstanding on my account in respect of anaesthetic and other professional services rendered.
- I confirm the nominated postal address or e-mail address is correct for the purpose of receiving an account.
- I hereby choose the nominated address as my *domicilium citandi et executandi* for all purposes under this agreement and I agree that any notice sent to the nominated address by prepaid registered post or e-mail will be deemed to have been received by me on the third business day after the posting or sending of it. Any notice received by me by any means and at any address will be valid for all legal purposes notwithstanding that it was not sent by registered post or to my *domicilium citandi et executandi*. Should I wish to change my *domicilium citandi et executandi*, I will give one week's prior written notice for such change to become effective.
- I nominate the party listed as "person responsible for payment of the account" as guarantor who is aware of this responsibility. Guarantor particulars are listed herein or on the anaesthetic consent form or SA Society of Anaesthesiologists anaesthesia form.
- I understand that a guarantor does not absolve me from my responsibility for payment and that I am personally liable for the account and bound by the terms of this agreement.

CONFIRMATION

- I have received this consent form and "Information for your operation" timeously, and I understand the contents and agree to the terms.
- I have had the opportunity to ask questions and obtain further information from my anaesthetist regarding this consent, anaesthesia and concerns specific to me and my activities.
- I have no further queries or disputes relating to this consent or the "Payment agreement". Specifically, alterations/additions to this form are only valid if countersigned by both parties.
- This agreement incorporates the Anaesthetic Independent Practitioner Association (AIPA) anaesthetic consent form or SA Society of Anaesthesiologists anaesthesia form, which shall have the same force and effect as if set out in the body of this agreement.
- I have read, understood and agree to the contents herein.

I confirm that I am 18 years of age or older and the particulars and all information furnished by me are in all respects true and complete.

NAME & SURNAME (GUARANTOR) _____

PLACE _____

DATE _____

SIGNATURE (GUARANTOR) _____

SIGNATURE (ANAESTHETIST) _____

CONTACT US

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