Surgical procedures Facility fee

Surgical procedures require a set of equipment and resources such that a highly professional service can be provided.

These include surgical pack , anaesthetic agents , disposable surgical equipment such as scalpels, syringes, suture materials, surgical gauzes and drapes, gloves, diathermy kit, masks , and reusable surgical equipment. The latter requires a great deal of time cleaning, maintaining and autoclaving.

Surgical couch, operating light , autoclave set, surgical sets, diathermy unit and a dedicated operating room are also major parts of the surgical service.

A surgical facility fee of $400 is charged for most procedures in reflection of the real cost for provision of the above items.

The payments for all surgeries are billed to Medicare with itemised gaps to be covered by the patient , as Medicare declines to cover these gaps at all, and sequentially diminishes payment by half each time where multiple procedures are performed in a single surgical session.

This Medicare payment is for the surgical procedure , not the surgical equipment.

The facility fee is not claimable to Medicare.

Some private health funds will pay the facility fee, most will not.

DVA will pay by special application.

It is not financially viable to provide a surgical service without charging a facility fee, and surgical gap fees.

The Facility Fee payment may be made by credit card, eftpos or cash and is due on the day of surgery before the procedure. A receipt for payment is provided .

Surgical payments are finalised upon pathology return and surgical review for removal of sutures, all fees are fully itemised for clarity of billing.

Arrangements can be made for payment over a period in some circumstances.

Dr Leigh Bennie
Principal
Mate Street Medical
28th October 2025