

**This brochure:** provides information about the benefits of being a private patient in a public hospital, for anyone who holds a Medicare card.

This brochure should be read in conjunction with the **Your Choices** leaflet.

You can view this online at [health.nsw.gov.au](http://health.nsw.gov.au) or ask our hospital clerical staff for a copy.

Thank you  
for supporting  
our local hospital.



# What it means to be a **private patient**

Making your private health insurance work for **you** and **our local public hospital.**



## Private patient advantages

One of the important decisions you will make when coming into hospital is to decide whether you would like to be treated as a private or a public patient.

More and more people are choosing to be private patients in public hospitals as there are a number of benefits for patients and hospitals.

If you have health insurance our staff can help you confirm the services covered by your health fund, including the advantages available if you have basic hospital cover.



### Specialist care

If you need a planned or booked procedure, you may choose the Specialist Doctor who will treat and care for you during your stay.

If you are admitted via the emergency department you will initially be under the care of the on-call Specialist Doctor best suited for your condition. You may choose to be transferred to the care of the Doctor who has previously treated you for the same condition.

### Follow-up care

After you leave the hospital your Specialist Doctor usually provides follow-up care in their private room.

As a private patient you may also be eligible to transfer to a private hospital for further treatment or for follow-up care.

### Access to single room

You will have access to a single room in our hospital if one is available and you have single room health cover. Patients who are very ill will be given priority for a single room.

### No excess through the emergency department

If you enter hospital through the emergency department, you will not be charged any accommodation excess or co-payment. If you have a planned admission, we will discuss with you if there are any fees.

### Help our hospital

You will help our hospital if you choose to use your private health insurance. The hospital accommodation fees we receive from health funds go directly to the wards and services providing care to you.

## Other things you should know

### Hospital accounts

You will **not** have any out of pocket expenses for hospital generated accounts for accommodation, prosthesis, pathology and radiology.

### Accounts made easy

We will lodge all of your hospital accounts with Medicare and your health fund on your behalf. Once hospital accounts are paid, you will receive a patient claim statement from your health fund.

### Doctor's fees

You will **not** have any out-of-pocket expenses for your doctor(s) treating you if they charge at the level covered by Medicare and your health fund.

In an emergency admission our staff will inform you if your Doctor(s) charge out-of-pocket fees. If your hospital admission is planned your doctor should discuss their fees with you.

### Self-funded private patients

If you would like to be a private patient but do not hold health insurance you can still receive all the benefits of being a private patient.

As a self-funded private patient you will be responsible for paying for accommodation, medical, prostheses, diagnostic and pathology fees.

Please ask our staff if you need more information about being a self-funded private patient.

### Private or public election change

It is important to make sure you have all the information you need before making your choice. Elections may only be changed after admission in the event of unforeseen circumstances. Please read the **Your Choices** leaflet for more information about when unforeseen circumstances may apply.