

Hospital Costs

Often your specialist will choose a hospital for your procedure based on where they operate. However, it not only needs to be convenient for your specialist, it needs to be what is best for you and should also have a 'Participating' agreement with Latrobe Health.

What is a 'Participating' Hospital

Your Latrobe Health hospital cover applies in every Australian public hospital. However, if you are going to a private hospital or day surgery centre, you must ensure that it is a 'participating' hospital - simply put, a 'Participating Private Hospital' is a private hospital with which Latrobe Health has negotiated provider agreement with to protect you against unexpected hospital accommodation costs. We have agreements with hundreds of hospitals all around Australia so no matter where you live you should be able to find a hospital near you.

It's easy to find out if your hospital is a Latrobe Health Participating Hospital, simply visit lhs.com.au and search 'participating hospital' or call us on 1300 362 144.



The numbers

50,374

Supported hospital admissions

3 days

Average number of days spent in hospital per admission

\$3,230

Average hospital benefit Latrobe Health paid per admission

\$8,219

Average hospital benefit Latrobe Health paid per admission when admission was longer than a day

Excess and 'hospital' costs

Your excess is the amount you have elected to pay to cover your portion of your upcoming admission when you are attending as a private patient. The remaining costs are paid by Medicare and Latrobe Health Services.

For the most part, the cost of going to hospital as a private patient is the unseen benefit that your health insurance provides when you are going to hospital. You might find this surprising when you consider the actual hospital stay is often the biggest cost associated to your hospital admission. So why don't you see these costs? Simply put, Latrobe Health is working hard in the background to ensure your admission runs as smoothly as possible. Generally speaking, all you will experience in terms of hospital costs is when you pay your initial excess (or co-payment) at the time of booking, or on the day of your admission.

Having an excess on your hospital cover is a great way to make your health insurance premiums cheaper. Generally, the higher your excess, the lower your premiums.

The number of times an excess is payable per calendar year varies depending on your cover. To find out more about your excess, call us or consult your policy documents.

Did you know; If you're on a selected family cover, you won't need to pay the excess for dependants up to 31 years old, who are on your policy. Refer to your policy documents for more information.

Medical Costs

JustASK!

Depending on your treatment, you will probably have a number of different service providers as well as your main specialist, for example an assistant surgeon, an anaesthetist and perhaps an assistant anaesthetist. If your medical practitioners all charge the Medicare Schedule Fee, you will not have any medical gaps, between Medicare and Latrobe Health we'll pick up the bill.

However, if they charge more than the schedule fee there will be a 'gap' that you need to pay. With JustASK! we are specifically focused on how to best support you financially by helping to reduce your medical bills through what can be a stressful period for you and your family.

What is JustASK!

JustASK! is an additional medical benefit that Latrobe Health will pay towards any medical 'gap' that you may experience when going to hospital. As long as your admission is for a procedure that is included on your hospital product, you have served your applicable waiting periods and have gained Informed Financial Consent (IFC), or implied IFC in the case of pathology and radiology, we will pay up to an additional 25% above the Medicare Benefit Schedule (MBS) to keep more money in your pocket.

This varies depending on the type of medical costs;

Specialist medical practitioner (when admitted);

- an additional 25% of the MBS fee where the invoice is submitted directly to Latrobe Health for payment.

OR

- an additional 20% of the MBS fee when the invoice is billed to you as a patient claim.

General medical practitioner (when admitted);

- an additional 16% of the MBS fee when the invoice is submitted directly to Latrobe Health for payment.

OR

- an additional 13% of the MBS fee when the invoice is billed to you as a patient claim.

Pathology & Radiology;

Latrobe Health has a Medical Provider Purchaser Agreement (MPPA) for radiology and pathology in all private hospitals across Australia which means that our members will have no out-of-pocket costs for pathology and radiology services in 99% of circumstances.

This agreement saves our members approximately three million dollars each year[^].

[^]Latrobe Health's pathology and radiology claims for 2023 recorded nearly \$3m in out-of-pocket costs to members.

Maryvale Private

In 1991 we established Maryvale Private Hospital, Gippsland's only private acute medical and surgical hospital.

Since its inception, Maryvale has cared for more than 44,000 patients in the Gippsland region. Today, it's a key health hub contributing to education and clinical programs such as diabetic care, cancer services, palliative care, breast care and men's health.

As an extension to the partnership in September 2021, Latrobe Health members admitted to Maryvale Private for orthopaedic services will have no medical gap when treated by a surgeon who is a member of the 'Gippsland Orthopaedic Group'. This includes the anaesthetist and anaesthetic items.



Practical Example of JustASK! Knee Replacement

In a practical scenario, let's consider an example. Private Healthcare Australia reports that 57% of all replacements were done through the private system. Let's illustrate this with a full knee replacement. According to Private Healthcare Australia, Health Funds paid an average of \$23,500 for surgery without complications (including the prosthesis) in 2021-22, which we can use as a cost estimate for our example.

Private Hospital Stay Cost - \$9,444

The cost of attending or staying in a private hospital, particularly for overnight stays is often the most expensive part of your trip to hospital.

Latrobe Health Member Private Hospital Stay Cost - Excess \$500*

*Depending on policy excess option selected

Medical Cost - \$4,939

The costs associated to your medical practitioners. There can often be a wide variation in potential out of pocket expenses, but with 'JustASK!' we can help you with 'the gap'.

Latrobe Health Member Medical Cost after JustASK! is applied - \$1,453*

*This is the gap left after Medicare 75%, Latrobe Health 25% and additional JustASK! 25% payments have been applied. Eligibility rules apply, for more information see page 2

Prostheses Cost - \$6,883

As the use of prostheses is not always obvious when planning your admission, ask your specialist or surgeon.

Latrobe Health Member Prostheses Cost - \$0*

*Member will need to pay anything above the schedule payment - Across 590 hospital episodes for Knee Replacement surgery at Latrobe Health in FY23, no OOPs were encountered for prostheses. However, if the schedule fee is less than the cost of the prosthesis, an OOP may occur for the difference

Need a knee replacement?

5.85 days

Average length of hospital stay

\$9,443.56

Average benefit paid by Latrobe Health for a private hospital stay

\$6,883.29

Average benefit paid by Latrobe Health toward prostheses

\$4,938.53

Average medical provider costs

\$1,453.22

The average out-of-pocket cost to members after JustAsk!