

Understanding Your Options:

Public, Private, Self-Funded and Private-in-Public Surgical Care

When you and your surgeon decide that an operation is the best next step, you can choose how and where your surgery is performed. In Australia, there are four main pathways:

- Public Hospital (Public Patient)
- Private Hospital (Privately Insured Patient)
- Self-Funded Private Hospital Care (Uninsured Patient)
- Private-in-Public (Privately Insured but electing to use a Public Hospital)

These options all provide safe and high-quality care, but differ in waiting times, costs, and who will perform your surgery.

2. Private Hospital Care (You are a “Private Patient” – With Health Insurance)

Private hospital care offers more control over your treatment and typically shorter waiting times. Key Points:

- Your surgeon will be Dr Fiona Reid.
- Choice of hospital and timing without a public waiting list.
- Private health insurance generally covers hospital fees, but you may have excesses or gap payments.
- **Each insurer and policy is different**, your level of cover with your insurer and the excess you have agreed with them will impact your out-of-pocket expenses
- **You must check with your insurer** that they will cover your care prior to surgery
- Dr Reid is a known-gap provider which means her fees will not alter or increase from the fee-estimate.
- Dr Reid's cancellation policy will apply
- Follow-up occurs in Dr Reid's private rooms.

3. Self-Funded Private Care (Uninsured Patient Paying Their Own Costs)

If you do not have private health insurance, or your insurance doesn't cover the procedure, you may still choose to be treated in a private hospital and pay the full fees yourself. Key Points:

- Your surgery is performed by Dr Reid.
- Choice of hospital and timing without a public waiting list.
- You will receive **separate quotes** for hospital, surgeon, and anaesthetist fees.
- You will be responsible for any extra, unexpected fees (such as an unplanned overnight stay) and medications

- Some Medicare rebates apply to surgeon and anaesthetist components.
- Dr Reid's cancellation policy will apply
- Follow-up occurs in Dr Reid's private rooms.
- This is only recommended for minor procedures with predictable outcomes and minimal private hospital stays e.g. colonoscopy, haemorrhoidectomy, botox

4. Private-in-Public Care (Using Your Private Health Insurance in a Public Hospital)

Some patients elect to use their private health insurance while being treated in a public hospital. Key Points:

- Your surgery is performed by Dr Reid.
- You will also encounter registrars and surgeons in training who will form part of your care team
- You are not guaranteed a private room even when private-in-public
- The public hospital will pay your insurance excess on your behalf meaning there will be **no out-of-pocket expenses**
- Your insurer will pay the hospital directly helping to support public hospitals
- Your follow-up will be in Dr Reid's private rooms
- Dr Reid may recommend this option to facilitate access to specialist equipment (e.g. Da Vinci Robot) or multidisciplinary care (if you have complex care needs)

1. Public Hospital Care (You are a “Public Patient”)

Public hospitals are funded by the State governments and provide free care to Medicare-eligible patients. Key Points:

- No cost for treatment, surgery, hospital stay, or follow-up.
- **Your operating surgeon may not be Dr Reid.** Care is provided by the hospital's surgical team, which includes specialist consultants, registrars, and surgeons in training.
- Surgery is prioritised based on clinical urgency, not surgeon or patient choice. Waiting lists will apply and you may not be able to reschedule your surgery. Same day-cancellations of surgery due to emergencies are possible.
- **Your follow-up will occur in the public hospital clinic,** not in Dr Reid's private rooms.

This decision depends on your preferences regarding surgeon choice, waiting times, insurance status, and financial considerations. Please discuss your options with Dr Reid for guidance tailored to your situation.