

Pre-Admission Information

Pre-Admission Team Contact Details

Mater Pimlico

Phone: (07) 4727 4104 Facsimile: (07) 4727 4490
Email: preadm@matertsv.org.au

Mater Hyde Park

Phone: (07) 4722 8804 Facsimile: (07) 4727 4490
Email: preadm@matertsv.org.au

***Mater Health Services North Queensland
is a smoke free zone***

PREPARING FOR YOUR ADMISSION

Prior to your hospital admission you are required to complete the Pre-Admission Form at the back of this booklet and return it to the Mater Hospital as soon as possible and no later than one week prior to your date of admission, therefore enabling us to prepare for your hospitalisation. Please complete to the best of your ability, providing as much detail as possible.

Maternity Patients: please return this form to the Women's Unit, Mater Hyde Park at 20-25 weeks.

If you have any questions please contact the Mater on 4727 4444 and ask for our Patient Services Department.

Please bring a list of all medications (including natural therapies) and any medicine you will need to take during your stay (refer to the Medication Summary Form within this booklet). Report all medication you are taking.

Please ensure you have your medications with you in their original containers/packaging and any current prescriptions you may have. Webster packs and dosettes that have already been prepared cannot be used by our staff.

A copy of the Australian Charter of Healthcare Rights is available on our website, or within the waiting rooms of the hospital for your perusal.

Information for your visitors

Please refer to your hospital ward for visiting hours. We do request that you advise your loved ones that a rest period is scheduled daily as this is an important aspect of your recovery. You may also visit our website or contact us on 4727 4444 to confirm the visiting hours for your ward.

Your visitors may like to know that they are able to order meals from our Food Services Department which will be delivered along with your meal. If you wish to take advantage of this service please see your nursing staff. Meals provided by the hospital to your visitor will incur a charge that is payable on discharge.

Accommodation is also available for patients and relatives who are from out of town. Please contact us on 4727 4444 and ask for our Patient Services Department for further information.

Day Procedures

Please arrange for a responsible person to transport you home following your procedure and stay with you overnight – it is unsafe and you may not be covered legally or by insurance to drive for 24 hours after your anaesthetic.

You must not sign any contracts or make important decisions for 24 hours following your procedure – these may not be legally binding.

You must follow any post-procedural instructions given to you and contact your doctor or present to an Emergency Department should you have any post-procedural complications.

Fasting

If you are having surgery you will need to "fast". This means that you will not be able to have any food or fluids (including water) for a specified period of time. You will be advised by your doctor if you are required to fast and how long you would need to fast.

You must not drink alcohol or smoke for 24 hours prior to your surgery. You must not drink alcohol for 24 hours after your anaesthetic.

Valuables

Please do not bring valuables to the hospital including large amounts of cash or jewellery. The Mater Hospital will not accept any liability from loss or damage, however caused, for any items of value retained in your responsibility whilst a patient in the hospital. However, please note that the Mater will require payment of any expected out of pocket expenses prior to or on admission.

PREPARING FOR YOUR ADMISSION

Electrical Testing

In the interests of patient safety, all electrical equipment, eg. shavers, hairdryers, phone chargers and computers must be checked by our technical staff prior to use. Please arrange this with our Patient Services staff.

Power of Attorney and Advanced Healthcare Directions

If you have an Advanced Healthcare Directive or Power of Attorney, please ensure you discuss this with your treating specialist/doctor and bring a copy of the documents with you to hospital. We will keep a photocopy in your chart with your consent.

Dietary Requirements

Should you have any special requirements please contact our Food Services Manager on 4727 4535 prior to your admission.

Smoking

The Mater Hospitals are committed to good health for everyone therefore smoking will not be permitted on hospital grounds (including car parks and outbuildings). If you are a patient coming into hospital you will not be able to smoke within the hospital premises and grounds (Tobacco & Other Smoking Products Act 1998 Qld).

WHAT TO DO ON THE DAY OF ADMISSION

On the day of your admission, please present to the hospital's main reception area at the time requested by your doctor.

Please note that the requested time is your admission time only, this is not your operation or procedure time. You have been asked to arrive at this time by your doctor to allow for any necessary preoperative requirements.

Your doctor sets the order of the operating list and makes the decision about what time you are needed in the operating theatre. As a result, you may have to wait between two and six hours before your surgery or procedure. The staff will aim to make your wait as comfortable and pleasant as possible.

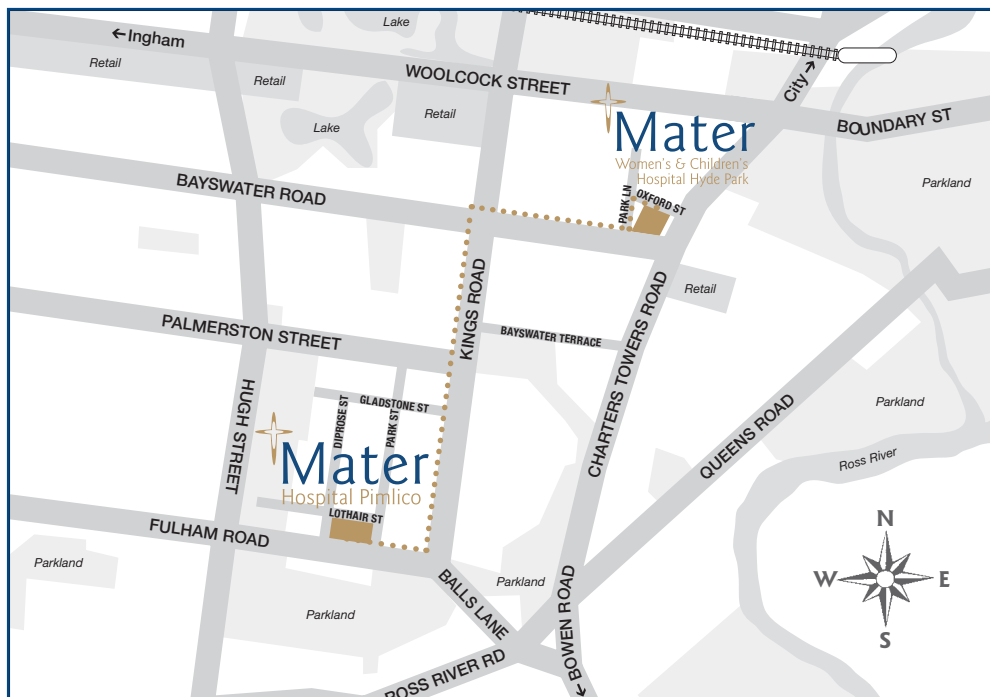
Your admission checklist:

- ☐ Any letters from your doctor including your consent form
- ☐ Any appropriate x-rays, scans and medical reports
- ☐ All medication that you are currently taking (in original packaging) and all prescriptions
- ☐ A list of any known allergies
- ☐ Your EFTPOS, credit card or other means of payment for any out of pocket expenses (all charges are payable on or prior to admission)
- ☐ If you are having day surgery please shower and wear loose, comfortable and appropriate clothing
- ☐ Do not wear any chemicals, eg. perfume, makeup, nail polish or deodorant
- ☐ If you are staying overnight, for your comfort we suggest you bring a small bag containing slippers, dressing gown, personal toiletries, night attire and contact lenses/glasses
- ☐ Please bring any item of a personal nature you may require (eg. sanitary products)
- ☐ If you are an insulin dependent diabetic, please bring your pens/needles with you
- ☐ A book or reading material

If your relative or friend will be waiting at the hospital our friendly staff will provide directions for them to relax in the café or one of the lounges within the hospital. We will ensure our staff have a mobile number for your relative or friend to ensure they can be contacted.

LOCATION OF OUR HOSPITALS

Distance between hospitals 2.25kms



PRIVACY STATEMENT

Our hospital is committed to protecting your privacy. We comply with the Commonwealth Privacy Act 1988, acknowledging the Privacy Amendment (Private Sector) Act 2000 and the Australian Privacy Principles as updated in March 2014. Further information is available on our website or contact our Health Information Manager on (07) 4727 4337.

To access a copy of your health information record, see further information on our website or contact our Health Information Manager on (07) 4727 4337.

YOUR SAFETY IN HOSPITAL

Identification

You will wear an identification band which will state your name, date of birth and unique hospital identification number and other relevant information. At various times staff will check the details on this band and ask you to tell them information such as your name and date of birth. This is not because they don't know who you are - they are taking precautions to ensure you are the correct patient to receive the medication or treatment.

The staff are taking these steps to ensure that everything goes as planned for your procedure.

YOUR SAFETY IN HOSPITAL

Ensuring Correct Surgery

Before you are transferred to the operating theatre your doctor may need to make a mark with a pen on the part of your body which requires surgery.

It is important that this mark does not rub off. It is essential for the doctor and nursing staff to see the mark before your surgery commences. If for any reason the mark is removed, please advise the staff as soon as possible.

When you arrive in the operating theatre, the nurse will ask you to state your name, date of birth and the type of operation you are having. This is done to ensure that your surgery is performed correctly.

Just prior to the commencement of your surgery, the surgical team will undertake a 'Final Team Check' to verify your identification and procedure you are to undergo.

Stop the clot

As a result of your admission to hospital you may be at increased risk of developing a blood clot in your legs or lungs.

As part of your care your doctor will assess you on admission to determine your level of risk and if necessary implement treatment options to reduce the risk of developing a clot.

These treatment options may include:

- Wearing compression stockings
- Using a compression pump on your lower legs
- Taking tablets or injections to help prevent blood clots
- Gently exercising your feet or legs in bed
- Getting out of bed and walking as soon as possible.

Some of these treatments are not suitable for all patients. Your doctor will decide the correct treatment option for you.

Falls Prevention

For a number of reasons, people of all ages are at increased risk of falling whilst in hospital. These reasons include unfamiliar surroundings, poor balance, poor eyesight, unsafe footwear, their medical/surgical condition and some medications.

While only a small number of these falls cause serious injury, they often result in a loss of confidence which can interfere with independence and prolong the time spent in hospital.

Everyone has a role to play in helping reduce the risk of falls, while in hospital.

On your admission, staff will show you around the ward to ensure you are familiar with your surroundings. You may also have a Falls Risk Assessment completed which staff will discuss with you and put in place a plan that suits your needs.

This may involve seeing a range of Allied Health Practitioners (eg. physiotherapist, dietitian) to provide you with information and support.

Please ensure you have appropriate clothing and footwear when you come into hospital. Footwear should fit securely; have a flat or low heel and a non-slip grip.

Many patients are fitted with anti-embolism stockings while in hospital. These stockings increase the risk of slipping or falling when walking. It is therefore important to wear slippers or other footwear if you are using these stockings.

AUSTRALIAN CHARTER OF HEALTHCARE RIGHTS

The Australian Charter of Healthcare Rights describes the rights of patients and other people using the Australian health system. These rights are essential to make sure that, wherever and whenever care is provided, it is of high quality and is safe.

The Charter recognises that people receiving care and people providing care all have important parts to play in achieving healthcare rights. The Charter allows patients, consumers, families, carers and services providing health care to share an understanding of the rights of people receiving health care. This helps everyone to work together towards a safe and high quality health system. A genuine partnership between patients, consumers and providers is important so that everyone achieves the best possible outcomes.

Guiding Principles

These three principles describe how this Charter applies in the Australian health system.

1 Everyone has the right to be able to access health care and this right is essential for the Charter to be meaningful.

2 The Australian Government commits to international agreements about human rights which recognise everyone's right to have the highest possible standard of physical and mental health.

3 Australia is a society made up of people with different cultures and ways of life, and the Charter acknowledges and respects these differences.



For further information please visit

www.safetyandquality.gov.au

AUSTRALIAN COMMISSION ON
SAFETY AND QUALITY IN HEALTHCARE

What can I expect from the Australian health system?

MY RIGHTS

WHAT THIS MEANS

Access

I have a right to health care.

I can access services to address my healthcare needs.

Safety

I have a right to receive safe and high quality care.

I receive safe and high quality health services, provided with professional care, skill and competence.

Respect

I have a right to be shown respect, dignity and consideration.

The care provided shows respect to me and my culture, beliefs, values and personal characteristics.

Communication

I have a right to be informed about services, treatment, options and costs in a clear and open way.

I receive open, timely and appropriate communication about my health care in a way I can understand.

Participation

I have a right to be included in decisions and choices about my care.

I may join in making decisions and choices about my care and about health service planning.

Privacy

I have a right to privacy and confidentiality of my personal information.

My personal privacy is maintained and proper handling of my personal health and other information is assured.

Comment

I have a right to comment on my care and to have my concerns addressed.

I can comment on or complain about my care and have my concerns dealt with properly and promptly.

YOUR SAFETY IN HOSPITAL continued

Preventing Pressure Ulcers

To reduce the risk of developing a pressure ulcer –

- Ensure good posture when sitting in a chair. Change your body position frequently if lying in bed for a prolonged time. At least every 1-2 hours if you are in bed, or every 15 minutes to 1 hour if you are in a chair. If you cannot move easily yourself, ask for assistance.
- Staff may use special equipment like air mattresses and heel elevators, to help relieve the pressure.
- Inspect your skin for early warnings of redness that does not go away, broken or blistered skin, or numbness. If you cannot see all your body ask a nurse, a family member or a friend to check regularly for you.
- Use moisturising lotion to prevent your skin drying out. Avoid vigorous massage or rubbing of the skin, as this can damage the underlying tissue.
- Keep your skin clean and dry at all times. If you use a continence device to control your bowel or bladder, it is important that you change it regularly to keep the skin clean and dry to reduce skin irritation from any urine or faeces.

10 TIPS FOR SAFER HEALTH CARE (Australian Council for Safety and Quality in Health Care)

1. Be actively involved in your own health care

Take part in every decision to help prevent things from going wrong and get the best possible care for your needs.

2. Speak up if you have any questions or concerns

Ask questions.

Expect answers that you can understand.

Ask a family member, carer or interpreter to be there with you, if you want.

3. Learn more about your condition or treatments

Collect as much reliable information as you can.

Ask your health care professional:

- what should I look out for?
- please tell me more about my condition, tests and treatment?
- how will the test or treatments help me and what is involved?
- what are the risks and what is likely to happen if I don't have this treatment?

4. Keep a list of all the medicines you are taking

Include:

- prescriptions, over-the-counter and complementary medicines (eg vitamins and herbs); and
- information about drug allergies you may have.

5. Make sure you understand the medicines you are taking

Read the label, including the warnings.

Make sure it is what your doctor ordered for you.

Ask about:

- directions for use;
- possible side effects or interactions; and
- how long you'll need to take it for.

YOUR SAFETY IN HOSPITAL continued

6. Get the results of any test or procedure

Call your doctor to find out your results.

Ask what they mean for your care.

7. Talk about your options if you need to go into hospital

Ask:

- how quickly does this need to happen?
- is there an option to have surgery/procedure done as a day patient.

8. Make sure you understand what will happen if you need surgery or a procedure

Ask:

- what will the surgery or procedure involve and are there any risks?
- are there other possible treatments?
- how much will it cost?

Tell your health care professionals if you have allergies or if you have ever had a bad reaction to an anaesthetic or any other drug.

9. Make sure you, your doctor and your surgeon all agree on exactly what will be done

Confirm which operation will be performed and where, as close as possible to it happening.

10. Before you leave hospital, ask your health care professional to explain the treatment plan you will use at home

Make sure you understand your continuing treatment, medicines and follow-up care.

Visit your GP as soon as possible after you are discharged.

For further information contact the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care.

Ph: (02) 9126 3600 Website: www.safetyandquality.gov.au Email: mail@safetyandquality.gov.au

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The information provided reflects our commitment to providing you with exceptional care. It explains your rights and responsibilities relating to the care and treatment you will receive as our patient.

As a patient you have a right:

- To be treated with respect, dignity, care, consideration, courtesy and understanding of your individual, spiritual, emotional, social, physical and cultural needs.
- To be involved in the planning of your continuing health care needs, from admission through to discharge from our hospital.
- To be informed of services available at the Mater or in the community that you can access.
- To have a family member or nominated person present when you receive information about your condition. To ask for a second opinion and extra information on any diagnosis or treatment.
- To withdraw consent and refuse treatment after discussion about the outcomes of your decision with the health care professionals caring for you.
- To be informed of the names and roles of key health care providers and be able to refuse a particular health care provider at any time.
- To have access (with advanced notice) to a confidential interpreter service.

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- To refuse to take part in clinical training or medical research without reason.
- To have your medical history and personal information kept confidential to the extent allowed by the law.
- To choose who is able to visit you and the right to refuse to see visitors.
- To receive an itemised final account for services within the hospital's control.
- To express an opinion or make reasonable verbal or written complaints regarding your treatment or any facilities or services which you feel are below your reasonable expectations. If you have concerns with any aspect of your care please discuss this with the staff looking after you. If you would like to voice a concern or make a complaint, you may wish to speak to the nurse in charge of that particular shift. The Executive Director of Nursing is also available on telephone 07 4727 4570.

As a patient at the Hospital you or your authorised representative have a responsibility:

- To give staff as much information as you can about your health and any ethnic, cultural or religious beliefs that may affect your care.
- To give the hospital accurate information about your personal and health details including current treatment and medications including recreational drugs and natural remedies.
- To be well informed about your condition and proposed treatment, before giving consent to any procedure. Feel free to ask for more information.
- To keep to the agreed treatment plan and discuss any desired change.
- To consider the consequences of refusing to comply with instructions and recommendations.
- To inform staff if you are having any problems or reactions to the treatment or the medicines being taken.
- To inform staff if you have any concerns about your discharge from hospital and the instructions you need to follow at home.
- To inform staff if you have an Advance Health Directive/Enduring Power of Attorney which includes health care instructions before or at the time of the admission or when consenting to treatment which might be relevant to the directives.
- To understand that there may be a reason why a service is not available at a particular time.
- To tell staff if you change your contact details.
- To be on time for appointments and let staff know in advance if you want to cancel.
- To finalise any accounts relating to your hospitalisation.
- To be considerate and respectful of the confidentiality, privacy and wellbeing of others including staff, volunteers, patients and visitors and ask your visitors to be considerate.
- To show respect for hospital property as well as the property of other persons. To take responsibility for your personal belongings.

HOSPITAL FEES AND CHARGES

Hospital charges can include accommodation, use of theatre, prostheses and essential pharmacy items for your care.

Charges can vary depending on treatment required, length of stay, prostheses (implants) provided, accommodation category and individual private health insurance contracts.

Hospital costs do not include non-hospital or medical provider costs, such as your doctor, anaesthetist, assisting doctor, pathology, x-ray or STD, ISD and mobile phone charges from your room. Additional charges may also include allied health providers, eg physiotherapy and the hire of physical aids.

Listed below are the different forms of cover patients may use when they are admitted to hospital.

(Please read the one applicable to you.)

If you have any questions about your hospital account prior to admission please contact the Mater on 4727 4444 between 8am and 5pm weekdays (excluding public holidays) and ask for our Pre-Admission Team. Payment methods available at the Mater are cash, Visa/Mastercard, cheque, EFTPOS or direct deposit (Amex and Diners facilities are unavailable).

All hospital estimates and out of pocket expenses are required to be paid prior to or on admission. Any additional costs that may arise during your hospital stay (eg. co-payments, pharmacy, phone call charges, visitors meals or unforeseen circumstances), are required to be paid on discharge.

After you have been discharged from the Mater, our Patient Accounts Team will finalise your hospital account. Please note that this process may take up to three weeks. Once complete you may receive an invoice if there are any outstanding charges. If you have any questions regarding your invoice please contact the Mater on 4727 4444 between 8am and 4pm weekdays (excluding Public Holidays) and ask for our Patient Accounts Team.

Private Health Insurance

If you have private health insurance please speak to your health fund prior to your admission into hospital, to ensure you understand your level of cover.

Important questions to ask your health fund are:

- Am I covered for the procedure at the Mater? (Do I have any exclusions or restrictions?)
- What level of cover do I have?
- Does my health fund cover all medication expenses?
- Do I have to contribute to the hospital costs? (Do I have an excess or co-payments?)
- Have I served all waiting periods? (Did I join less than 12 months ago or is this a pre-existing ailment?)

The Mater will require payment of any health insurance policy excess or co-payment prior to or on admission. If any additional costs arise because of your stay (eg. co-payments, pharmacy, phone call charges, visitors meals or unforeseen circumstances), you are required to pay these on discharge.

The Mater has agreements with most major health funds in Australia. Under those agreements, subject to your membership, your insurer will meet the costs of your hospital fees. An account for your hospital stay will be sent directly to your Private Health Insurer for assessment in accordance with our contract. If your hospital claim requires any further documentation prior to submission or assessment by your health insurer, we ask that you comply and return to us as soon as possible.

If you have any questions about your hospital fees and charges, including medication, please contact your health fund insurer directly to discuss any out of pocket expenses prior to your admission.

HOSPITAL FEES AND CHARGES

Cosmetic Surgery

Private Health Funds do not cover cosmetic surgery and the estimate of all costs related to cosmetic surgery needs to be paid prior to or on admission. For an estimate please contact the Mater on 4727 4444 between 8am and 5pm weekdays (excluding public holidays) and ask for our Pre-Admission Team.

Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA)

If you have Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) cover

- Gold Card Holders – No approval necessary
- White Card Holders – You must provide your approval letter from DVA prior to admission

Overseas Travel Insurance

If you have travel insurance, the hospital requires you to pay for your hospital stay prior to admission unless approval has been given by a recognised insurer and proof of the approval and billing details are provided prior to admission.

For an estimate please contact the Mater on 4727 4444 between 8am and 5pm weekdays (excluding public holidays) and ask for our Pre-Admission Team.

Self Insured

If you are self insured (paying the hospital account yourself), you will need to contact the Mater to discuss hospital costs once you have discussed your hospital admission with your doctor. To assist in providing an accurate estimate you are required to provide as much information as possible about your stay. This would include the procedure item numbers for your proposed theatre procedure/s, prostheses (implants) items to be used (such as screws or mesh) and proposed length of stay.

You will be required to pay all estimated hospital costs prior to or on admission. Estimates provided are based on the information available at the time and are subject to change. If any aspect of your stay changes due to medical necessity, for example your doctor performs a different or modified procedure, the doctor uses additional or different prostheses or the length of stay changes, this will affect the cost. Any additional costs that arise during your hospital stay are required to be paid on discharge.

Workers Compensation and Third Party

If you have Workers Compensation Cover or Third Party Compensation we will require the approval letter from your employer or related Third Party Insurer provider prior to admission.

Defence Force

If you are covered under the Defence Force we will require your defence approval and EP identification number prior to admission.

Please Note

If your hospitalisation is not covered by private health insurance or if it is related to a Workcover or Third Party claim that has not been approved for payment, then you are fully responsible for the costs and an estimate of fees needs to be paid prior to or on admission, with any balance on discharge.

FEEDBACK

Providing Feedback or Making a Complaint

If you have any issues or problems that relate to your admission to hospital please let us know.

At the time of your discharge you may receive a patient feedback form or a phone call which we use to obtain information about our care and service delivery. We would appreciate your assistance with this survey.

The Mater Hospital has a formal compliments and complaints management process and we value feedback.

If you wish to provide us with additional feedback or make a complaint about any aspect of your hospital experience, you may either:

- Speak to the Nurse Manager of your ward. After hours, request to speak to the Hospital Co-Coordinator;
- Complete a Patient Feedback Form (located on each ward and at Patient Services on discharge);
- Write to the Chief Executive Officer or Executive Director of Nursing,
Mater Health Services North Queensland Limited, Locked Bag 1000, Aitkenvale BC, QLD, 4814;
- Send an email to info@matertsv.org.au.

Issues that are not resolved to your satisfaction can be taken to the Office of the Health Ombudsman:

Telephone: 133 OHO (133 646) Fax: (07) 3319 6350 Email: info@phio.gov.au

Web Address: www.oho.qld.gov.au

Postal Address: PO Box 13281 George Street, Brisbane QLD 4003

Health Insurance Complaints may be directed to your health fund or to the Commonwealth Ombudsman:

Telephone: 1300 362 072 Fax: 02 6276 0123 Email: ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.au

Web Address: www.ombudsman.gov.au