

Weight Loss (Bariatric) Surgical Fees Package:

- ***As a Bariatric and Weight-Loss surgery practice, one of the most common questions we receive is how much will the Sleeve Gastrectomy or Bypass cost?***

While we cannot give a definitive answer until you have been seen by Dr Mastakov, a key difference in the way Dr Mastakov runs his clinic is to refund as much of the rebates to his patients. This reduces patients' out-of-pocket expenses.

Please note that the total cost of having surgery in a private hospital is a combination of fees from multiple providers. Our fee is known as the surgical fees. This is the only fee which we set. There will also be fees for your anaesthetist, the surgical assistant, the hospital, and, if required, any specific equipment required during surgery, pathology/radiology tests, and some medications.

Each operation is specific to the patient. All quotations are based on the appropriate Medicare Item Numbers which can be determined by Dr Mastakov during the consultation. Should you be booked for surgery, the detailed **Informed Financial Consent (IFC)** will be provided to you via email.

Please note that our Surgical Fees Package includes:

- Laparoscopic Sleeve Gastrectomy or Gastric Bypass.
- Same day Gastroscopy (if required). Upper endoscopy (Gastroscopy) is required prior to her operation in order to exclude bile reflux or any sinister stomach disease.
- Such additional procedures as Hiatus Hernia repair (if found and repaired at the time of your surgery), ultimately saves the patient time, money and the emotional impact of multiple surgeries.
- If required, up to a 4-night stay at the Private Hospital for uninsured patients.
- 7 Days a week extended hours post-operative phone service support - where patients can speak to a medical professional or, if needed, with Dr Mastakov.
- We believe that your follow up appointments after your Bariatric Surgery are one of the most important factors that will help you to achieve long term success. With this in mind, we will not charge any out-of-pocket fee for ALL review appointments related to weight management for the first 12 months following your surgery.

- ***What is a Hiatus Hernia and why is it included?***

The Hiatus hernia is when part of the stomach moves into the chest through the diaphragm (a thin dome-shaped muscular sheet that separates the chest from the abdomen). A hiatus hernia by itself can be without symptoms or pre-existing. We have learned from our experience over the past few years that the hiatal hernia best be repaired during gastric sleeve (or gastric bypass) surgery to restore normal anatomy and to prevent post-operative acid reflux, bile gastritis and other complications. If hiatus hernia is found but not repaired on a day, you may require another surgery.

If Hiatus Hernia repair is needed, the impact and ease to complete this procedure at the time of the Sleeve Gastrectomy (or Gastric Bypass) ultimately saves the patient time, money, and the emotional impact of multiple surgeries.

Be mindful that not all practices include such additional procedures as Gastroscopy and Hiatus Hernia repair as part of their quote.

- **Gastric Bypass Costs**

In our Practice, the out-of-pocket expenses for a Gastric Bypass are the same as a Sleeve Gastrectomy for private patients, which allows the procedure to be done according to the medical needs of the patient, and not on a cost basis.

A Gastric Bypass, same as Sleeve Gastrectomy, is also supported by access to Super through the Early early release of Super funds on compassionate grounds, and for the uninsured, the cost difference is reasonable and affordable.

Due to the reasonable costs of both the Gastric Bypass and the Sleeve Gastrectomy, we can ensure that our patient's needs are being met, giving them the best outcome possible.

- ***Weight Loss Surgery without Private Health Cover.***

If you don't have Private Health Cover, we would encourage you to consider investing in private health cover and wait the 12-month qualifying period.

If you would like to undergo Sleeve Gastrectomy or Gastric Bypass surgery in the near future, we would be happy to request a quote from the hospital, the anaesthetist and the assistant on your behalf. Where applicable, we will provide documentation to support your claim to the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) for accessing your superannuation earlier on 'compassionate grounds' (please refer to more details below). If your application is approved by ATO, you will be able to use your super for funding surgery costs.

- **Contact Us Today.**

If you'd like to discuss your options for weight loss surgery in Brisbane or Hervey Bay, our team would love to welcome you to our clinics. In your initial appointment, we will listen to your goals and suggest the best option to meet your weight loss goals.

For a personalised quote and consultation please call **07- 34143950** or **07- 41487082** to book your appointment to see Dr Mastakov. All you need is a letter of referral from your general practitioner (GP). Your consultation is an excellent way to find out more about Weight Loss Surgery. If you decide after the consultation you don't want to proceed further, there is no pressure to do so at all.

- **How long do I have to wait for an appointment with Dr Mastakov? How soon can I have my surgery?**

We carefully manage our wait list; we therefore have availability and can see clients normally within 1-2 weeks from a referral, in person or via TeleHealth.

Patients are booked for weight loss surgery as soon as they are ready, subject to theatre availability. Being ready for surgery means you are prepared to be admitted to hospital and have had any tests or procedures needed before your surgery (Dr Mastakov will advise you at your initial consultation). Patients spend an average of **two to three days** in the hospital following laparoscopic Sleeve Gastrectomy. You need to take at least **2 weeks** off work allow your body to recover and heal.