

A guide to podiatric surgery

Before you see a podiatric surgeon, make sure you have a sound understanding of the costs involved.

Podiatric surgery is a specialist field of podiatry where registered podiatric surgeons treat conditions affecting the foot and ankle. There are only a small number of registered podiatric surgeons within Australia and they currently do not undertake surgery in a public hospital.

What podiatric surgery costs will GU Health cover?

If podiatric surgery is included in your hospital cover, and if your surgery is performed by a registered podiatric surgeon, GU Health will pay the following benefits according to your level of cover:

- **Hospital accommodation fees:** If your hospital cover provides full benefits, you will be covered for accommodation costs as a private patient in a partner private hospital (unless the plan offers All Hospitals).
- **Prosthesis:** GU Health will cover the cost of any prosthesis that is associated with the surgery up to the cost listed on the Government approved Prosthesis list.

GU Health does not cover the following:

Hospital theatre fees: You will not be

covered for the theatre fee charged by the hospital for having a surgical procedure performed by a podiatric surgeon.

Medical services: As there is no Medicare Medical Benefits Schedule (MBS) item number for a podiatric surgeon's services or the associated anaesthetist's service, GU Health will not provide benefits for the surgeon's fees, surgical assistant fees or anaesthetist fees. Medicare will also not provide a benefit toward these fees.

It is important to know that if your surgeon is not a registered podiatric surgeon, when surgery is performed in a podiatrist's rooms there are no special benefit for podiatry surgery. Only a benefit under the podiatry limit of your extras cover will apply.

Note: Where a member attends a non-partner private hospital only restricted benefits will apply.

Informed Financial Consent

Before you're admitted to hospital, your surgical podiatrist has a responsibility to provide you with Informed Financial Consent, which is a document outlining

all the charges and out-of-pocket expenses you may incur. You need to ensure you understand all the potential costs and discuss your treatment with the hospital and doctors.

We recommend you contact your Member Relations Team before going to hospital and/or before you undertake any treatment so that you understand your benefits and learn how you may be able to minimise or avoid out-of-pocket expenses.



Please make sure you read **Your Membership Guidelines** in conjunction with **Your Cover at a Glance** and **Your Plan Information**, which you would have received in your **GU Health Welcome Pack**.



For further information about your GU Health cover or any queries relating to this document, please email corporate@guhealth.com.au or call your Member Relations Team on **1800 249 966**.

Updated March 2019. The information contained within this document is current from the publication date and is subject to change.