

This brochure provides information about the benefits of being a private patient in a public hospital for anyone who holds a Medicare card.



**Thank you**  
for supporting our Hospital

This brochure should be read in conjunction with the **Your Choices** leaflet.

You can view this online at [health.nsw.gov.au](http://health.nsw.gov.au) or ask our hospital clerical staff for a copy.

the  
**children's**  
hospital at Westmead



FIN2337/0715



What it means to  
be a **private patient**

Making your private health insurance  
work for you and our hospital

the  
**children's**  
hospital at Westmead





## Private patient advantages

One of the important decisions you will make when coming into our hospital is to decide whether you would like your child to be treated as a private or public patient.

More and more people are choosing to be private patients in public hospitals as there are a number of benefits for patients and hospitals.

If your child is covered by health insurance, our staff can help you confirm the services covered by your health fund.

## Help our hospital

You will help our hospital if you choose to use your private insurance for your child's admission. The hospital accommodation fees we receive from health funds go directly to the wards and services providing care to your child.

### Specialist care

If your child is being admitted for a planned or booked procedure, you may choose the Specialist Doctor who will treat and care for your child during their stay.

If your child is admitted via the Emergency Department, your child will initially be under the care of the on-call Specialist best suited to their condition. You may choose for your child to be transferred to the care of the Doctor who has previously treated your child for the same condition.

### Follow-up care

After leaving the hospital, your Specialist Doctor usually provides follow-up care for your child in their private rooms.

As a private patient, your child may also be eligible to transfer to a private hospital for further treatment or follow-up care.

### Access to single room

Patients who are very ill will be given priority for a single room. Your child may have access to a single room in our Hospital if one is available and your child has single room health cover.

### No excess through the Emergency Department

If your child is admitted to our Hospital through the Emergency Department, you will not be charged any accommodation excess or co-payment. If your child has a planned admission, we will discuss any fees with you.

### Hospital accounts

You will not have any out-of-pocket expenses for hospital generated accounts for your child's accommodation, prosthesis, pathology and radiology.

### Accounts made easy

We will lodge all of your child's hospital accounts with Medicare and your Health Fund on your behalf. Once hospital accounts are paid, you will receive a patient claim statement from your Health Fund.

### Doctor's fees

You will not have any out-of-pocket expenses for doctor(s) treating your child if they charge at the level covered by Medicare and your Health Fund.

In an emergency admission, our staff will inform you if your child's doctor(s) charge out-of-pocket fees. If your child's admission is planned, the Doctor should discuss their fees with you.

### Self-funded private patients

If you would like your child to be a private patient but do not hold health insurance, your child can still receive all the benefits of being a private patient.

As a self-funded private patient, you will be responsible for paying for your child's accommodation, medical, prosthesis, diagnostic and pathology fees.

Please ask staff if you need more information about your child being a self-funded private patient.

### Private or public election change

It is important to make sure you have all the information you need before making a choice for your child. Elections may only be changed after admission in the event of unforeseen circumstances. Please read the Your Choices leaflet for more information about when unforeseen circumstances apply.

