

## Can I still be a private patient if I don't have private health insurance?

**Yes**, if you do not have private health insurance, you can still elect to be a private patient. As a self-funded patient you will be responsible for meeting any costs incurred during your hospital stay that are not covered by Medicare.

### How do you elect to be a private patient?

Hospital staff are available to answer any questions you may have. If you would like to be admitted as a private patient please let our staff know.

A hospital representative will assist you to complete the necessary forms which will help you make an informed choice to be admitted as a private patient.

All you need to do is provide:

- > Your Medicare details
- > Your private health fund details (if applicable)

Our hospital representative can be contacted on:

**Ph: (08) 8648 8300**

Monday to Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm

### *Thank you for supporting our hospital*

For more information

Contact the hospital representative on the number above OR Visit: [www.sahealth.sa.gov.au](http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au)

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This document has been reviewed and endorsed by SQCAG\* for consumers and community October 2015.



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\*Safety and Quality Community Advisory Group



Interpreter



Government of South Australia

SA Health

Whyalla Hospital and  
Health Services

# What it means to be a private patient

## Admitted Patients



Making your private health insurance work for **you** and **your local public hospital**



Government of South Australia

SA Health

## Using your private health insurance at our Hospital

As a private patient in a public hospital you will enjoy a number of benefits and help your hospital

### How will you benefit?

By electing to be admitted into our hospital as a private patient you will enjoy the advantages of:

- > No private health insurance co-payments or excesses
- > Access to 'free to air' television at no cost
- > Free movie channels
- > Free Internet
- > Free local telephone calls
- > Newspaper
- > Access to a single room (if available)
- > Choice of doctor (if available)

### How you will help the hospital and community

It is our aim to provide all patients with the highest possible quality and standard of care.

The income we receive from your health fund helps to improve hospital facilities, update equipment and provide staff education and training.

### Choice of doctor

As a private patient you are able to choose your doctor(s) provided that the doctor has Rights of Private Practice at this hospital, and is available. Where your doctor of choice is unavailable, you can still experience a private stay in our hospital and be treated by the doctor on duty.

### How will you be affected financially?

- > If you have hospital cover, your health fund should cover the costs associated with your accommodation and prostheses charges.
- > Medicare and your health fund will cover 100% of medical service fees if your doctor charges the scheduled fee or participates in a Gap Cover Scheme with your health fund.

*Note: Medical service fees are fees that may be charged by your doctor, surgeon, anaesthetist and/or pathology or radiology departments.*

### Accounts made easy

The hospital will lodge all of your claims to Medicare and your health fund on your behalf (where possible). Once hospital accounts are paid, you will receive a patient claim statement from your health fund providing details of all charges paid.

### The importance of confirming your level of health fund cover

Our hospital representative can confirm your level of health fund cover and let you know whether you are covered for your hospital stay. Please ask our representative if you have any questions relating to your health fund cover or costs relating to your admission.