

WHO WE ARE



The role of the Medical Surgical Assistant

A "medical surgical assistant" is a **qualified doctor** who assists the surgeon during an operation.

What does a Medical Surgical Assistant do?

A medical surgical assistant works with the surgeon as a skilled second pair of hands to maximise safety and efficiency.

Medical surgical assistants work across a variety of surgical disciplines. Some choose to specialise in certain types of operations.

Who is in charge of the operation?

Your surgeon is in charge of the operation and all members of the surgical team work according to his or her instructions and protocols.

SURGERY IS TEAM WORK!



What people make up the surgical team?

While it depends on the type of surgery you are having, the team usually consists of your surgeon and:

The Anaesthetist

A qualified doctor who uses anaesthesia to render the patient unconscious or pain free so the operation can proceed, and who monitors the patient during the procedure.

The Medical Surgical Assistant

A qualified doctor who assists the surgeon by performing certain tasks during the operation.

The Instrument Nurse

A nurse who manages the surgical instruments and all other items used during the procedure.

The Circulating Nurse

A nurse whose duties include the provision of extra equipment throughout the operation.

The Anaesthetic Nurse

A nurse who assists the anaesthetist throughout the operation.



Who will my Medical Surgical Assistant be?

This will be a doctor selected by your surgeon. It may be:

- a full-time surgical assistant
- another surgeon
- a surgeon in training
- a sports medicine physician
- a general medical practitioner (GP)

Is there a fee for the Medical Surgical Assistant?

You will be charged a separate fee for the services of a medical surgical assistant.

How much will I have to pay?

Your surgeon's staff can give you an estimate in advance of the medical surgical assistant's fee, or provide you with the contact details of your medical surgical assistant.

Is this fee rebateable?

Medicare and private health funds usually pay a rebate towards this fee, but not always. Even where rebates apply, there may be an "out-of-pocket" component for you to pay.