

WELCOME

to my Orthopaedic Practice. I've produced this handout to provide you with some background information about me, my staff and the running of my practice. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask.

Dr Philip Dalton:

I have a comprehensive background in Orthopaedic Surgery and musculoskeletal medicine. I initially trained as a Physiotherapist and completed a Masters Degree in the area of muscle physiology. I then completed my Medicine and Orthopaedic Surgery training. I have completed all my undergraduate and post graduate degrees in Queensland before travelling to the United Kingdom in 2005 to complete advanced training (fellowships) in knee and hip surgery. On my return to Brisbane in 2006 I was appointed Director of Orthopaedic Surgery at the QEII Hospital.

I have been in private practice since 2007 and still hold a public VMO appointment at the QEII Hospital. I am a member of both the Australian Medical Association and The Australian Orthopaedic Association and I hold a Senior Lecturer position with the University of Queensland.

My clinical interests include predominantly knee, hip and shoulder surgery but I also cover some general Orthopaedics and trauma. The scope of my practice covers injuries from sports (eg arthroscopy and ligament reconstruction) through to arthritis (eg cartilage grafting and joint replacement surgery).

My Staff:

The staff at my rooms include my main secretary Wendy together with my practice manager Karen and part time receptionist / book keeper Sue. When I consult at Sunnybank and Redlands the receptionist staff at these rooms work for their respective hospitals and may cover several doctors.

Appointments:

All appointments need to be booked through my main rooms at Greenslopes. For patients to attract a Medicare refund they need to have a current referral from a doctor. Generally GP referrals are current for 12 months but Specialist referrals are only current for 3 months. **It is your responsibility to ensure your referral is current.**

On your initial consultation there is some background information and forms to complete and read. We ask if you can arrive 15 minutes before your scheduled appointment to complete the paperwork.

PTO

Fees:

Consultation fees are to be paid on the day of the consultation (cash, Eftpos or credit card facilities are available). **No accounts are given.** Fees include \$150.00 for an initial consultation and \$75.00 for a follow up appointment. If you have a current referral you can attain a refund of part of this fee back from Medicare. If you do not have a current referral you can still be seen but you cannot obtain a refund from Medicare. **If payment is not made on the day of consultation and an account is given a \$20.00 account fee will be added to the consultation fee.** Other fees that may be incurred during your consultation include a cortisone injection or plaster fee. The cost of a cortisone injection is \$50.00 (Medicare no longer provides a rebate for this service). If fiberglass is used for plasters the fee is \$30 for upper limbs and \$50 for lower limbs. Plaster fees can not be claimed through Medicare.

Surgery fees are set according to the type and complexity of surgery. This practice is a private billing practice and does not hold any contracts with private health funds. Gap fees are charged on all procedures. The gap is the amount over and above what Medicare and your Health fund rebate will be. Dr Dalton and his staff will discuss this with you in detail at the time of the booking. This practice follows guidelines on informed financial consent and a written quote for the estimated costs of surgeries will be given to you before surgery. If you have any concerns please ask Dr Dalton or his staff.

Post operative care:

Follow up care after surgeries is generally included in your surgery cost. For most cases this will include your in hospital care and your **initial** post operative review 10-14 days post surgery. For hip and knee replacement surgery this will include your visits back to see Dr Dalton for up to 6 weeks post operatively. Some fractures have recommended aftercare periods (as recommended by Medicare). Dr Doctor will explain this to you when necessary.

WorkCover:

WorkCover claims must be substantiated with documentation from WorkCover. With a substantiated WorkCover claim we will bill WorkCover direct and you will not have to pay fees. If a claim is still pending and WorkCover have not accepted liability, then you will need to pay for your consultation on the day and then claim back from WorkCover if the claim is eventually accepted.

Surgery undertaken on WorkCover patients must first be approved by WorkCover. Most cases are approved within a week but in some cases there can be delays. Once we have WorkCover approval you will not have any surgery costs to pay.

Veterans Affairs:

Patients with current Veterans Affairs status (gold or appropriate white card) will have no out of pocket expenses. Veterans affairs will be billed direct.

Hospitals:

Dr Dalton operates privately at The Greenslopes Private Hospital, The Sunnybank Private Hospital and the Mater Private Hospital Redlands. More complex cases that require a length of time post operatively in hospital (eg joint replacements) are usually carried out at the Greenslopes Private Hospital . Dr Dalton also has visiting rights to the QEII Hospital as a VMO and can undertake intermediate cases through this hospital.

If you have any questions or concerns my staff and I would be happy to answer them for you.