

# Essential Choice (Bronze Plus)

## Hospital and Extras Cover

Fact Sheet effective from 27 July 2023

### Hospital Tier



Bronze Plus

### Extras Tier



Medium

### Gap Cover



### Cover availability



Single



Couple



Single Parent  
Family



Family

### Excess options



Excess is waived for **Dependants**  
Excess is halved for **Day Surgeries**



**Important:** This Fact Sheet is only a summary of the cover. Our Member Guide and Terms & Conditions documents have further information on how this cover works. These documents, along with our Fund Rules are available at [australianunity.com.au/importantdocuments](https://australianunity.com.au/importantdocuments). Before booking treatment, you should contact us to ask about the benefits you can expect to receive and any out-of-pocket expenses you might incur. This information is current as at 22 June 2023 and subject to change from time to time.

# Essential Choice (Bronze Plus)

## Hospital Cover

The table(s) below must be read together with the "Important Information" section, which provides further detail on your benefits, out-of-pockets and waiting periods. In addition you should read the table(s) in conjunction with the Clinical Categories Explained document to understand what treatments are included under each Clinical Category. This document can be found online at [australianunity.com.au/clinical-categories-explained](http://australianunity.com.au/clinical-categories-explained)

Clinical Category	Agreement Private Hospital	Public Hospital, shared room
<b>Covered</b>		
Blood	✔ Covered	✔ Covered
Bone, Joint and Muscle	✔ Covered	✔ Covered
Brain and Nervous System	✔ Covered	✔ Covered
Breast Surgery (Medically Necessary)	✔ Covered	✔ Covered
Chemotherapy, Radiotherapy and Immunotherapy for Cancer	✔ Covered	✔ Covered
Dental Surgery	✔ Covered	✔ Covered
Diabetes Management (Excluding Insulin Pumps)	✔ Covered	✔ Covered
Digestive System	✔ Covered	✔ Covered
Ear, Nose and Throat	✔ Covered	✔ Covered
Eye (Not Cataracts)	✔ Covered	✔ Covered
Gastrointestinal Endoscopy	✔ Covered	✔ Covered
Gynaecology	✔ Covered	✔ Covered
Hernia and Appendix	✔ Covered	✔ Covered
Joint Reconstructions	✔ Covered	✔ Covered
Kidney and Bladder	✔ Covered	✔ Covered
Lung and Chest	✔ Covered	✔ Covered
Male Reproductive System	✔ Covered	✔ Covered
Miscarriage and Termination of Pregnancy	✔ Covered	✔ Covered
Pain Management	✔ Covered	✔ Covered
Podiatric Surgery (Provided by a Registered Podiatric Surgeon)	✔ Covered	✔ Covered
Sleep Studies	✔ Covered	✔ Covered
Skin	✔ Covered	✔ Covered
Tonsils, Adenoids and Grommets	✔ Covered	✔ Covered
<b>Restricted</b>		
Hospital Psychiatric Services	ⓘ Restricted	✔ Covered
Palliative Care	ⓘ Restricted	✔ Covered
Rehabilitation	ⓘ Restricted	✔ Covered
<b>Not Covered</b>		
Assisted Reproductive Services	✘ Not Covered	✘ Not Covered
Back, Neck and Spine	✘ Not Covered	✘ Not Covered
Cataracts	✘ Not Covered	✘ Not Covered
Dialysis for Chronic Kidney Failure	✘ Not Covered	✘ Not Covered
Heart and Vascular System	✘ Not Covered	✘ Not Covered
Implantation of Hearing Devices	✘ Not Covered	✘ Not Covered
Insulin Pumps	✘ Not Covered	✘ Not Covered
Joint Replacements	✘ Not Covered	✘ Not Covered
Pain Management with Device	✘ Not Covered	✘ Not Covered
Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery (Medically Necessary)	✘ Not Covered	✘ Not Covered
Pregnancy and Birth	✘ Not Covered	✘ Not Covered
Weight Loss Surgery	✘ Not Covered	✘ Not Covered

### Excess

In exchange for a lower premium, an excess is a set amount you agree to pay towards the hospital accommodation costs if you or a family member is admitted to hospital.

<b>Excess</b>	<p><b>\$500 or \$750</b></p> <p>You will pay a maximum of \$500/750 for overnight admissions, or \$250/\$375 for same day admissions (half-excess). If you have more than one admission in a calendar year, your maximum total excess is \$500/\$750 per person per calendar year. Plus you won't pay any excess for dependant admissions to hospital.</p>
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### Additional benefits

<b>Accident Cover</b>	If you need hospital treatment for an injury sustained during an Accident that occurred after joining this cover, and the hospital treatment is within a Clinical Category that is listed as Restricted or Not Covered, that hospital treatment will be treated as Covered.
<b>Gap Cover</b>	<p>If your doctor or specialist agrees to participate in Australian Unity's Gap Cover scheme for your procedure, we can pay for some, if not all, of the gap between the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) fee and the amount charged for medical services in-hospital. To find a participating doctor, visit <a href="http://australianunity.com.au/gap-cover">australianunity.com.au/gap-cover</a></p> <p>If Gap Cover won't fully cover your participating doctor's fees, your doctor must tell you how much you'll have to pay in writing before treatment can begin. This is called Informed Financial Consent.</p>
<b>Ambulance</b>	<p><b>Unlimited Emergency Ambulance transportation to hospital</b> provided that the transport is coded and invoiced as emergency transport by a recognised State Ambulance authority.</p> <p><b>Two ambulance attendances per person per calendar year, where you are not taken to hospital.</b></p> <p>Benefits are not payable if ambulance service is already covered by a State-based scheme or your ambulance subscription.</p>

### Health and wellbeing programs and services

For more information about available programs and eligibility criteria, contact us or visit [australianunity.com.au/wellnessbenefits](http://australianunity.com.au/wellnessbenefits)

<b>Hospital Substitution Programs</b>	Receive short-term support from our approved service providers in the comfort of your own home to avoid or reduce a hospital stay following a hospital admission, when referred by a medical practitioner. Subject to prior application and approval.
<b>Health Support Programs</b>	Personalised support from qualified and experienced health professionals aimed at preventing or helping manage long-term health conditions such as diabetes, heart failure or mental health.
<b>Preventative Health Services</b>	Practical support to help you stay healthy. No waiting period: <b>Doctor Health Checks, Cervical Cancer Vaccinations, Quit Smoking, Weight Loss and Personal Health Coaching</b> ; 12 month waiting period: <b>Diabetes Australia Membership, Mammogram Screening, Bone Density Scans and Fitness programs.</b> More details available at <a href="http://australianunity.com.au/health-insurance/programs/services">australianunity.com.au/health-insurance/programs/services</a>

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Extras Cover

The table(s) below must be read together with the “Important Information” section, as well as our Fund Rules and Terms and Conditions at [australianunity.com.au/importantdocuments](http://australianunity.com.au/importantdocuments). If a provider charges less than the benefit listed, we will not pay more than cost of the service or item.

Dental	What you'll get back	Yearly limit (January- December)	Waiting Period and Additional Information
Preventative Dental, including No Gap Dental Network	60% of the cost per item or 100% of the cost for selected services at our No Gap Dental Network	Combined maximum of \$700 per person  Benefits claimed as No Gap Dental do not count towards the yearly limit.	<b>No waiting period</b>  No Gap Dental covers selected services such as scale and clean, fluoride treatment and mouthguards. Please note: No Gap Dental providers are not available in all states and territories
General Dental	60% of the cost per item		<b>No waiting period</b> for selected diagnostic services <b>2 month waiting period</b> for all other services Includes most fillings and simple tooth extractions
Root Canal, Gum Disease Treatments and Surgical Extractions			<b>12 month waiting period</b>
Crowns, Bridges & Dentures			<b>12 month waiting period</b>  A full denture replacement is limited to once every three years

Optical	What you'll get back	Yearly limit (January- December)	Waiting Period and Additional Information
Optical	100% of the cost per item	\$200 per person	<b>6 month waiting period</b>  For prescription glasses, contact lenses or repairs supplied by an optometrist in private practice  Excludes non-prescription sunglasses and contact lenses, and optical consultations

Physical Therapies	What you'll get back	Yearly limit (January- December)	Waiting Period and Additional Information
Physiotherapy	60% of the consultation fee	Combined maximum of \$350 per person	<b>2 month waiting period</b> Includes sports physiotherapy and hydrotherapy
Exercise Physiology			<b>2 month waiting period</b> Includes hydrotherapy
Chiropractic and Osteopathy	60% of the consultation fee 60% of the chiropractic x-ray fee	Combined maximum of \$250 per person Limit of one chiropractic x-ray per person	<b>2 month waiting period</b>
Remedial massage	60% of the consultation fee	Combined maximum of \$200 per person	<b>2 month waiting period</b>
Acupuncture			
Myotherapy			
Podiatry	60% of the consultation fee	\$200 per person	<b>2 month waiting period</b>

Other Health Services	What you'll get back	Yearly limit (January- December)	Waiting Period and Additional Information
Psychology	60% of the consultation fee	\$100 per person	<b>2 month waiting period</b>
Dietetics		\$200 per person	
Travel Vaccinations	60% of the cost per script	\$100 per person	<b>No waiting period</b>  For approved travel vaccines, supplied and administered in Australia prior to departure and for the purpose of overseas travel

## Important Information

### ✓ Covered treatments means your hospital cover will pay benefits towards:

#### Except for the Clinical Category Podiatric Surgery (Provided by a Registered Podiatric Surgeon):

- Accommodation in an agreement Private Hospital room/ward for overnight or same day admission
- Accommodation in a Public Hospital, shared room/ward for overnight or same day admission up to the minimum (default) rate as set by the Australian Government
- Operating theatre and intensive/coronary care fees
- Medication in hospital approved by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) (excluding medication you take home)
- Allied health services directly related to your admission provided by the hospital (e.g. physiotherapy) while admitted
- Dressings and other consumables while admitted. Excludes robotic surgery consumables unless otherwise covered for your treatment by the agreement between Australian Unity and the hospital. Please contact your hospital about any out-of-pocket costs.
- Attending doctor/surgeon fees raised while admitted
- Most diagnostic tests during your admission e.g. pathology and radiology
- The cost of a prosthesis as listed in the prostheses list set out in the Private Health Insurance (Prostheses) Rules, as in force from time to time
- Private room in an agreement Private Hospital where available

#### For treatment under Clinical Category Podiatric Surgery (Provided by a Registered Podiatric Surgeon), your hospital cover will pay benefits towards:

- Accommodation in an agreement Private Hospital room/ward for overnight or same day admission
- Accommodation in a Public Hospital, shared room/ward for overnight or same day admission up to the minimum (default) rate as set by the Australian Government
- The cost of a prosthesis as listed in the prostheses list set out in the Private Health Insurance (Prostheses) Rules, as in force from time to time
- Private room in an agreement Private Hospital where available

### Out-of-pocket costs (Hospital)

If you are admitted to hospital (including for Covered treatments) you may have out-of-pocket costs, some of which have been detailed below, on the next page. If you want more specific information about what you can expect these costs to be, we recommend you obtain a quote from your doctors/hospital before undergoing treatment. Then contact us for details of benefits before proceeding with your treatment. Additionally, benefits are not payable for claims where you have the right to claim compensation, damages or benefits from another source (e.g. TAC or WorkCover), now or at a later date.

### Hospital Accommodation General

Hospital covers do not pay any benefits towards the cost of non-admitted hospital visits, attendance at a doctor's room or administration fees when you attend an Emergency Department. You will be out-of-pocket for all of these costs.

#### Non-Agreement Private Hospital/private room in a Public Hospital

If you are admitted to a non-agreement Private Hospital, or to a private room of a Public Hospital, then the amount we pay is a set rate and may not cover the full cost of your stay which means you may incur large out-of-pocket costs.

#### Shared room of a Public Hospital

If you are admitted as a private patient in a shared room of a Public Hospital, then the amount we pay is the minimum (default) benefit for the accommodation set by the Australian Government. If the hospital charges more than the minimum (default) benefit, you will incur out-of-pocket costs.

Find an agreement Private Hospital:

[australianunity.com.au/agreementhospitals](http://australianunity.com.au/agreementhospitals)

### Medical Bills

The Australian Government sets a schedule of fees for all medical treatments called the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS). When you're treated as a private patient in a Public or Private Hospital, Medicare pays 75% of the MBS fee and Australian Unity pays the remaining 25%. If your doctor or specialist charges more than the MBS fee, then this will result in an out-of-pocket expense better known as 'the gap'.

### Waiting Periods

In addition to those listed above, the following waiting periods apply:

- **2 months:** Psychiatric, Rehabilitation and Palliative Care
- **12 months:** Health Support Programs
- **12 months:** all pre-existing conditions except Psychiatric, Rehabilitation and Palliative Care
- **No waiting period** for Ambulance, or hospital treatment required for an injury sustained during an Accident that occurs after joining this cover
- **2 months:** all other hospital treatments included on your cover

Health Support programs and some Preventative Health Services require 12 months membership with an eligible Australian Unity cover. For more information, please contact us or visit [australianunity.com.au/wellnessbenefits](http://australianunity.com.au/wellnessbenefits)

You cannot receive benefits for any items or services you may have received while you are serving a relevant waiting period. However, if you've already served your waiting periods on an equivalent or higher level of cover with any registered Australian health fund and join within 30 days of leaving that fund, you will not have to re-serve your waiting periods. Otherwise, waiting periods will apply from the date you re-join. If you've upgraded your cover, your waiting periods for the higher benefits will start on the date you upgrade, but you can still claim an equivalent benefit to your previous level of cover during that period.

### Pre-existing conditions

A pre-existing condition is an ailment, illness or condition that in the opinion of a medical practitioner appointed by Australian Unity (not your own doctor), the signs or symptoms of that ailment, illness or condition existed at any time in the period of six months ending on the day on which you joined Australian Unity or upgraded your cover, irrespective of whether you were aware of it. If you make a hospital claim in the first 12 months of your joining or upgrading your cover, we will ask you to get your consulting doctors or other practitioner (e.g. your dentist, GP or specialist) to complete a medical report. You should ask us to carry out this assessment before going into hospital.

### Accidents

Accident means an unplanned and unforeseen event, occurring by chance, and leading to bodily injuries caused solely and directly by an external force or object requiring treatment from a Medical Practitioner (defined here as a medical doctor who is not the member or a relative of the Member) within 7 days of the event, but excludes injuries arising out of: surgical procedures; unforeseen illness; pregnancy; drug use; and aggravation of an underlying condition or injury.

### Restricted Services

Restricted services are hospital claims which are limited to a minimum (default) benefit. This is the minimum dollar amount set by the Australian Government for accommodation as a private patient in a shared room of a Public Hospital. A Restricted service does not pay any money towards the cost of intensive care, coronary care, labour ward or theatre fees in a Private Hospital or private day centre. You may incur a large out-of-pocket expense.

### Surgical Implants (Prosthesis)

If a treatment is Covered (or Restricted) under your hospital cover, you are also covered for any Australian Government approved surgical prosthesis on the Australian Government Prosthesis List. We will pay up to the benefit of the prosthesis set out in the Australian Government Prosthesis List at the date of service, so you shouldn't have any out-of-pocket expenses. If the prosthesis is not in the List, you'll have to pay any cost charged by the hospital, but the hospital or doctor needs to provide you with Informed Financial Consent first.

## Important Information (continued)

### Out-of-pocket costs (Extras)

At Australian Unity we want to try to help with the cost of looking after your health by putting some money back in your wallet. Extras cover can help you get money back on common health treatments that aren't generally covered by Medicare.

You'll get a percentage of the cost back on included Extras every time you claim, until you reach your yearly limit, where applicable. Therefore you only pay the difference between what you get back from Australian Unity and the cost set by your provider.

Please call us or refer to your Member Guide and Terms & Conditions for further information on how this cover works. If you want more specific information about what you can expect your out-of-pocket costs to be, we recommend you obtain a quote from your provider before undergoing treatment, along with a list of item numbers. You can then contact us or log in to Online Member Services for details of benefits before proceeding with your treatment.

### Dental Service Limits

We use the Australian Dental Association (ADA) guidelines and our Fund Rules to determine whether we pay benefits for certain services. For example, the ADA guidelines help us to categorise each dental service (e.g. 'diagnostic', 'Periodontics') and may indicate that a certain dental item number can't be charged by a provider with another service during the same visit. Some limited services may also not be payable under our assessment rules. Where possible, you should always contact us to determine the benefits you can expect to receive.

### Planning a family

There's no happier time than starting or growing your family, and we want to ensure your new addition is covered straight away on your policy without having to serve waiting periods. It's important to contact us in a timely manner as you may not be able to backdate this request. More details on managing your membership and the requirements to add a child can be found in the Member Guide, at [australianunity.com.au/importantdocuments](http://australianunity.com.au/importantdocuments)

### Consultations and Telehealth Appointments

References to 'consultations' in the tables above are to in-person consultations. Physiotherapy, Exercise Physiology, Psychology and Dietetics are also eligible for benefits where the consultation can be appropriately delivered as a telehealth appointment. Benefits are only payable for one consultation with a provider on the same day, for the same member.

### Recognised Providers

We only pay benefits when you see a recognised provider in a private practice. Please contact us to check if your provider is recognised by us.

### Changes to your cover

We may at any time make changes to your cover. This may include adding or reducing the benefits or services available to you. We will ensure that we provide you with appropriate notice of these changes in accordance with the Private Health Insurance Act 2007, the Australian Consumer Law and the Private Health Insurance Code of Conduct.



Australian Unity is a signatory to the Private Health Insurance Code of Conduct. For details visit [privatehealth.com.au/codeofconduct](http://privatehealth.com.au/codeofconduct). This documentation should be read carefully and retained. Information is subject to change.  
Your personal information is managed in line with our privacy policy which is available at [australianunity.com.au/privacy-policy](http://australianunity.com.au/privacy-policy).  
Your membership is subject to the Fund Rules and Privacy Policy of Australian Unity which may change from time to time.  
Australian Unity Health Limited - ABN 13 078 722 568.

### Contact us

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