

# Northern Beaches Hospital Transition



Northern Sydney  
Local Health District



Northern Beaches  
Hospital  
by Healthscope

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Pre-booked Surgery

**I have surgery booked after 29 April, 2026. Will my surgery still go ahead?**

Yes, your pre-booked surgery will continue as planned. There will be no changes to booked surgery because of Northern Beaches Hospital moving from private to public.

**Can I still choose my own specialist and when I want my surgery?**

Patients who elect to use their private health insurance can still choose their own specialist.

The specialist will work with the patient to book the surgery at a time of their choosing.

**Can I still use my private health insurance at Northern Beaches Hospital when it becomes public?**

Yes, patients can elect to use their private health insurance at a public hospital. This will provide you the option of choosing your specialist, a private room (if available), and ?

**What happens to my private hospital excess and co-payment once NBH becomes a public hospital?**

Patients will still need to pay their hospital excess, if they elect to use their private health insurance.

The excess is waived if they are admitted to hospital via the emergency department.

**Do visiting medical officers (VMOs) charge more out-of-pocket expenses in a public hospital?**

Out-of-pocket costs vary between individual VMOs and are determined by their own billing practices, not by the hospital. If you have questions about potential fees, your VMO's rooms are the best place to confirm any costs before your appointment or procedure.

**Will I be charged more out-of-pocket expenses if I am a private patient in a public hospital?**

No. Being treated as a private patient in a public hospital does not automatically result in higher out-of-pocket costs. Current private patient billing arrangements at Northern Beaches Hospital remain unchanged during the transition. If any future updates affect you, the hospital will contact you directly.

**Will there be any changes to my planned surgery if I am a public patient?**

No. Public patient care continues as normal. Your planned surgery will go ahead as scheduled unless the hospital contacts you directly with alternative arrangements.

### Private Patient Questions (Post-29 April)

**What private surgery will be offered at NBH after 29<sup>th</sup> April?**

Private surgery is expected to continue at Northern Beaches Hospital. The future model for private services is currently being finalised with NSLHD, and more information will be shared once arrangements

are confirmed. For now, all private bookings remain unchanged.

### **Does the process to book a private patient change from 29<sup>th</sup> April?**

No. The booking process for private patients remains the same. Patients should continue to book through their surgeon's rooms or as advised by their treating doctor. If any administrative processes change in future, the hospital will communicate this clearly.

### **What private services can I still have at Northern Beaches Hospital?**

Private services are expected to continue after 29 April. The detailed service model is being finalised as part of the transition, and updates will be provided once confirmed. Your current private admission, procedure and billing arrangements remain unchanged during the transition.

### **I have previously had surgery at Northern Beaches Hospital and wish to have the same surgeon. Can I still do this?**

Yes. Patients may continue to choose their preferred surgeon, provided that surgeon is practicing at Northern Beaches Hospital and is available for your procedure. If anything changes that affects your ability to see a particular surgeon, you will be contacted directly.

## **Northern Beaches Surgery Hub**

### **What is the Northern Beaches Hospital High Volume Planned Surgery Centre?**

It will be the State's first high volume planned surgery centre to reduce surgery wait times across NSW.

From 1 July 2026, up to an extra 5000 surgeries will be performed at the hospital each year through the newly established surgery centre.

It will focus on high-demand specialties such as ophthalmology, orthopaedics, ear, nose and throat (ENT), general surgery and gynaecology to help reduce surgical wait lists across NSW.

Patients from some of the busiest areas across NSW can be referred to the centre.

### **Why has Northern Beaches Hospital been**

### **selected as the state's first planned surgery centre?**

Northern Beaches Hospital is a leader in planned (elective) surgery, boasting world-class surgeons, technology and facilities.

### **I am a resident of Northern Beaches. Does this mean I will now have to wait longer for my surgery?**

No. Northern Beaches Hospital is first and foremost a hospital for the community of Northern Beaches. Northern Beaches residents will continue to be prioritised in accordance with their clinically recommended time for treatment.

The NSW Government recognises the expertise at Northern Beaches Hospital and wants to build on the capacity to allow for the additional surgeries.