

Dr Stephen B Etheredge

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Dear Patient

Re: Pre-operative Assessment

Your surgeon has referred you for a medical assessment prior to your operation. This is to assess the risks of both the anaesthetic and the operation and will involve tests on your heart, arteries and lung function. You will not necessarily see Dr Etheredge unless these tests are abnormal.

Some patients will require a stress test on a treadmill and most patients will require a 24 hour heart monitor, lung function/breathing test and a cardiac ultrasound. Some patients will require extra investigations such as ultrasound assessment of the carotid arteries and further blood tests etc.

A comprehensive report including the test results will be forwarded to the hospital and referring doctor, as well as your usual GP, so that the anaesthetists and other staff will be aware of your general health and medical condition. This information will greatly assist the doctors and nurses involved in your hospital care.

Dr Etheredge may visit you after the operation to check your progress including your blood pressure, temperature etc and ensure appropriate blood tests are performed. All hospital visits are claimed through the health fund with no cost to the patient but there is a variable gap (\$250 - \$350) payable for the tests performed at Dr Etheredge's surgery.

If you have any questions please contact us on the above phone number.

Yours sincerely

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