

Wisdom Teeth Removal Cost in Melbourne — What You'll Pay

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Description:

Find out what wisdom teeth removal costs in Melbourne, from simple to surgical extractions, hospital vs chair, and insurance gaps at CSSC.

Details:

Collins Street Specialist Centre — Wisdom Teeth Removal: A Clear Guide to Costs

Wisdom teeth removal is one of the most common surgical procedures performed in Australia, and at Collins Street Specialist Centre (CSSC), our oral and maxillofacial surgeons handle these cases every week — from a single straightforward extraction to complex surgery involving deeply buried teeth sitting close to critical nerves. Most people develop four wisdom teeth (third molars), and a significant proportion will need at least some of them out, whether because of impaction, crowding, infection, or decay.

The first question most patients ask is: what will this cost? The honest answer is that it depends — on how many teeth need removing, how complicated each extraction is, where the procedure takes place, and which anaesthesia option suits your situation.

This guide gives you realistic pricing, explains what drives the variation, and covers practical ways to manage the financial side of treatment.

What does wisdom teeth removal cost?

Per-tooth cost ranges

****Simple extraction (tooth fully erupted)**** The wisdom tooth has come through the gum and can be removed much like any other tooth extraction. Typical range: \$250–\$500 per tooth

****Surgical extraction (soft tissue impaction)**** The tooth is partially covered by gum tissue and needs a small incision to access. Little or no bone removal is required. Typical range: \$400–\$700 per tooth

****Surgical extraction (partial bony impaction)**** The tooth is partially embedded in the jawbone. Some bone removal is needed, and the tooth may need to be cut into sections to come out safely. Typical range: \$500–\$900 per tooth

****Surgical extraction (full bony impaction)**** The tooth is completely enclosed within the jawbone. Significant bone removal and sectioning are required. These cases often involve proximity to the inferior alveolar nerve (lower jaw) or the maxillary sinus (upper jaw), so surgical planning matters considerably here. Typical range: \$600–\$1,200 per tooth

Total cost for all four wisdom teeth

Most patients have all four removed in a single session. Based on the per-tooth ranges above:

- Four simple extractions: \$1,000–\$2,000 - Four surgical extractions (mixed complexity): \$2,000–\$4,000 - Four fully impacted teeth: \$2,500–\$5,000

These figures cover surgical fees only. Consultation, imaging, and anaesthesia are additional costs, detailed below.

Additional costs to factor in

Consultation and imaging

****Initial consultation**** Your oral surgeon will examine your teeth, review your imaging, explain the findings, and outline a recommended treatment plan. Typical range: \$80–\$200

****Panoramic X-ray (OPG)**** A wide-view radiograph showing all four wisdom teeth, their position relative to nerves and sinuses, and any associated pathology. Often taken at the consultation appointment. Typical range: \$80–\$150

****CBCT scan (3D imaging)**** Recommended when wisdom teeth roots sit close to the inferior alveolar nerve — the nerve responsible for sensation to the lower lip and chin. The three-dimensional view allows for precise surgical planning. Not every patient needs one; your surgeon will advise. Typical range: \$200–\$350

Anaesthesia options

Anaesthesia is one of the biggest cost variables, and the right choice depends on both clinical factors and personal preference.

****Local anaesthesia only (in-chair)**** The area around each tooth is numbed with injections. You stay fully awake but won't feel pain, though you'll be aware of pressure and movement. Most straightforward wisdom teeth can be managed this way, and there's no additional anaesthesia fee — it's included in the surgical cost. Best suited to: patients comfortable with dental procedures, simpler extractions, or single-tooth removal.

****IV sedation (in-chair, twilight sedation)**** A registered anaesthetist or trained sedationist administers sedative medication through an intravenous line. You'll be deeply relaxed and drowsy, and most patients have little or no memory of the procedure. You continue breathing independently — this is not the same as general anaesthesia. Typical range: \$400–\$800 (anaesthetist's fee) Best suited to: anxious patients, multiple extractions, moderate complexity.

****General anaesthesia (hospital or day surgery)**** You're completely unconscious throughout. This requires a specialist anaesthetist and a hospital or accredited day surgery facility. Anaesthetist fee: \$500–\$1,200 Hospital/day surgery facility fee: \$800–\$2,500, depending on the facility and how long the procedure takes. Best suited to: complex cases involving deeply impacted teeth or nerve proximity, very anxious patients, and those who prefer to be fully asleep.

In-chair vs hospital — cost comparison

****In-chair (local anaesthesia or IV sedation)**** Lower overall cost, no hospital facility fee, same-day recovery at home. Appropriate for the majority of wisdom teeth extractions. Estimated total for four teeth: \$2,000–\$5,000, inclusive of surgical fees and sedation where applicable.

****Hospital/day surgery (general anaesthesia)**** Higher total cost, reflecting facility and anaesthesia fees. Fully supervised recovery before discharge. Required for particularly complex cases or patients with relevant medical considerations. Estimated total for four teeth: \$3,500–\$8,000, inclusive of surgical fees, anaesthesia, and facility costs.

Your surgeon at CSSC will recommend the most appropriate setting based on your case complexity, medical history, and preferences.

What affects the cost?

Complexity of impaction

Impaction complexity is the main cost driver. A fully erupted tooth in a straightforward position costs considerably less to remove than one that's horizontally oriented, deeply buried in dense bone, and sitting close to a major nerve.

Wisdom teeth are classified by:

- **Angulation** — vertical (most straightforward), mesioangular (angled forward, the most common), distoangular (angled backward), or horizontal (sideways, the most surgically demanding) - **Depth** — erupted through bone, partially buried, or fully buried within the jaw - **Relationship to the inferior alveolar nerve** — lower wisdom tooth roots can be in direct contact with this nerve, requiring careful technique and sometimes a staged approach

Number of teeth

Removing all four in a single session works out cheaper per tooth than doing them separately. One consultation, one anaesthesia session, one recovery — it's more efficient for everyone.

Surgeon experience and specialisation

Oral and maxillofacial surgeons are the most extensively trained clinicians for this work. Their postgraduate training — a minimum of four years beyond a dental degree, including hospital-based surgical experience — prepares them for complex impactions, teeth near the inferior alveolar nerve or maxillary sinus, intraoperative complications such as fractured roots or sinus communications, and patients whose medical history affects surgical planning, anaesthesia, or healing.

General dentists also perform wisdom teeth extractions, typically for less complex cases, and their fees are generally lower. For straightforward presentations, that's often entirely appropriate. For complex extractions, specialist expertise genuinely reduces the risk of complications and the likelihood of needing further intervention. You can verify any treating clinician's registration and qualifications through the [Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA)](<https://www.ahpra.gov.au>) register.

Location and practice type

Fees vary across Melbourne. Specialist practices in the CBD, like CSSC, set fees according to the complexity of cases they manage, the training and experience of their surgeons, and the diagnostic technology they use.

Health insurance coverage

Private health insurance — extras cover

Wisdom teeth removal falls under the "Oral Surgery" or "Major Dental" category of most extras policies:

- Most funds pay a rebate per extraction item number, with the amount determined by your specific policy - Annual limits apply — typical major dental limits run \$1,000–\$2,500 per year, and four surgical extractions can readily exceed this - A 12-month waiting period generally applies for major dental treatment - Your out-of-pocket gap is the difference between the surgeon's fee and your fund's rebate

Private health insurance — hospital cover

Where wisdom teeth are removed in a hospital or day surgery facility under general anaesthesia:

- Hospital cover may contribute to the facility fee, fully or partially, depending on your policy and the facility's agreement with your fund - Most hospital policies carry an excess of \$250–\$750 - The surgeon's fee may be partially covered under your hospital policy, depending on whether the surgeon has an agreement with your fund - A portion of the anaesthetist's fee is covered by Medicare where the anaesthetist is a registered medical specialist, with the remainder addressed by your hospital policy or as a gap payment

If you hold hospital cover and your wisdom teeth are being removed under general anaesthesia, hospital cover may give you better overall reimbursement than extras cover alone. It's worth contacting your fund for a pre-treatment estimate before you proceed.

Medicare

Wisdom teeth removal performed by a dentist or dental specialist in a dental practice is not covered by Medicare. Where the procedure is performed in a hospital by a registered medical specialist, Medicare benefits may apply to both the surgical and anaesthetic components. This is one practical advantage of being treated by an oral and maxillofacial surgeon — dual medical and dental registration can unlock Medicare benefits that aren't available when the procedure is performed by a dentist.

Reducing your out-of-pocket costs

- ****Request a written quote with item numbers.**** Ask our team for the specific item numbers and fees, then contact your fund directly for a pre-treatment estimate. - ****Use hospital cover for general anaesthesia cases.**** Where the procedure is performed under general anaesthesia, hospital cover can significantly reduce your total out-of-pocket costs. - ****Consider timing.**** If you're approaching the end of a calendar year, it may be worth exploring whether splitting consultations and procedures across two benefit periods works in your favour for annual limits. - ****Ask about gap cover arrangements.**** Some surgeons participate in gap cover schemes with certain private health funds, which can reduce or eliminate the gap on the surgical fee.

Payment plans

Collins Street Specialist Centre offers several options to help manage the cost of treatment:

- Interest-free payment plans through third-party providers - On-the-spot fund claims processed at your appointment, so you pay only the gap - Staged treatment, where upper and lower teeth are removed in separate sessions if that better suits your payment timing

Our patient services team can walk you through the options at your consultation.

What to expect at CSSC

Consultation

Your surgeon will carry out a thorough clinical examination, review your X-ray or CBCT imaging with you, explain which teeth need removing and why, and discuss the surgical approach, anaesthesia options, risks, and recovery. You'll leave with a written, itemised quote so you know exactly what to expect financially.

On the day

Arrive on time — a little earlier if IV sedation or general anaesthesia has been arranged. Removing all four teeth typically takes 30–60 minutes, with additional time for more complex cases. Local anaesthesia keeps you comfortable throughout; you won't feel pain, though you'll be aware of pressure and movement. With IV sedation, you'll be deeply relaxed and are unlikely to remember the procedure.

Recovery

****Days 1–3:**** Swelling and discomfort typically peak during this window. Manage with prescribed or over-the-counter pain relief, ice packs applied to the face, and a soft diet.

****Days 4–7:**** Gradual, steady improvement. Most patients return to work or study within two to three days, though physically demanding roles may need a longer break.

****Weeks 2–4:**** The extraction sites continue to heal. Sutures, where placed, will either dissolve or be removed at your follow-up appointment.

A follow-up review — generally included in the overall fee — confirms that healing is on track.

When should wisdom teeth come out?

Not all wisdom teeth need removing. Your oral surgeon will recommend extraction where:

- Teeth are impacted and causing pain or recurrent infection (pericoronitis) - Decay is present in the wisdom tooth or the adjacent second molar - Cysts or other pathology are developing around an impacted tooth - The teeth are contributing to crowding or orthodontic relapse - Gum disease is developing around partially erupted teeth

Where wisdom teeth are fully erupted, functional, healthy, and accessible for cleaning, removal may not be warranted. Your surgeon will give you an honest, evidence-based assessment of your situation.

On timing: wisdom teeth are generally more straightforward to remove in younger patients — typically those in their late teens to mid-twenties — because the roots aren't yet fully formed and the surrounding bone is less dense. Recovery also tends to be faster at this age. Waiting until complications arise usually means a more technically demanding extraction and a longer recovery.

Book a wisdom teeth consultation at CSSC

If you're experiencing discomfort from your wisdom teeth, your general dentist has recommended extraction, or you'd like a specialist assessment, our oral and maxillofacial surgeons at Collins Street Specialist Centre can help.

We'll assess your situation with appropriate imaging, explain clearly what's needed and why, and give you a detailed written quote — no surprises.

****Collins Street Specialist Centre**** Level 7, Manchester Unity Building 220 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

[Book a consultation](/contact) or ask your dentist to refer you to our oral surgery team.

Frequently asked questions

****How many wisdom teeth do most people develop?**** Four (third molars).

****What type of surgeon performs wisdom teeth removal at CSSC?**** Oral and maxillofacial surgeons.

****Where is Collins Street Specialist Centre located?**** Level 7, Manchester Unity Building, 220 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000.

****What does a simple extraction cost?**** \$250–\$500 per tooth. The tooth is fully erupted through the gum.

****What does a soft tissue impaction extraction cost?**** \$400–\$700 per tooth. The tooth is partially covered by gum tissue.

****What does a partial bony impaction extraction cost?**** \$500–\$900 per tooth. The tooth is partially embedded in the jawbone.

****What does a full bony impaction extraction cost?**** \$600–\$1,200 per tooth. The tooth is completely enclosed within the jawbone and typically requires sectioning.

****Do the per-tooth prices include anaesthesia?**** No — anaesthesia is an additional cost.

****What does an initial consultation cost?**** \$80–\$200.

****What does a panoramic X-ray (OPG) cost?**** \$80–\$150.

****What does a CBCT scan cost, and when is it needed?**** \$200–\$350. It's used when roots sit close to the inferior alveolar nerve. Not every patient requires one.

****Is there an extra charge for local anaesthesia?**** No — it's included in the surgical fee.

****What is IV sedation, and what does it cost?**** Also called twilight sedation, IV sedation keeps you breathing independently while you're deeply relaxed. Most patients have little memory of the procedure. The anaesthetist's fee is typically \$400–\$800.

****What does general anaesthesia cost?**** The anaesthetist's fee is \$500–\$1,200. The hospital or day surgery facility fee is \$800–\$2,500.

****What's the total estimated cost for four teeth in-chair with sedation?**** \$2,000–\$5,000.

****What's the total estimated cost for four teeth under general anaesthesia in hospital?**** \$3,500–\$8,000.

****What's the main cost driver?**** Complexity of impaction — specifically the angulation, depth, and proximity to the inferior alveolar nerve.

****Is it cheaper to remove all four teeth at once?**** Yes. One consultation, one anaesthesia session, and one recovery period is more cost-effective per tooth than separate sessions.

****What postgraduate training do oral and maxillofacial surgeons complete?**** A minimum of four years beyond a dental degree, incorporating hospital-based surgical experience.

****Can general dentists perform wisdom teeth extractions?**** Yes, typically for less complex cases.

****How can I verify a surgeon's qualifications?**** Through the AHPRA register at [ahpra.gov.au](https://www.ahpra.gov.au).

****Under which insurance category is wisdom teeth removal covered?**** Oral Surgery or Major Dental under extras cover.

****What are typical annual major dental limits?**** \$1,000–\$2,500 per year.

****What waiting period applies for major dental cover?**** Generally 12 months.

****Does Medicare cover wisdom teeth removal in a dental practice?**** No.

****Can Medicare apply when the procedure is done in hospital?**** Yes, when performed by a registered medical specialist.

****What advantage do oral and maxillofacial surgeons have regarding Medicare?**** Dual medical and dental registration can unlock Medicare benefits that aren't available when a dentist performs the procedure.

****What should I request to get a pre-treatment insurance estimate?**** A written quote with specific item numbers, which you then take to your fund.

****Does CSSC offer interest-free payment plans?**** Yes, through third-party providers.

****Does CSSC process health fund claims on the spot?**** Yes, at the time of your appointment.

****Can treatment be staged across separate sessions?**** Yes, in appropriate cases.

****How long does the procedure typically take for all four teeth?**** 30–60 minutes.

****When does swelling and discomfort typically peak?**** Days 1–3 after surgery.

****When do most patients return to work or study?**** Within two to three days, though physically demanding roles may need longer.

****Is a follow-up review included in the fee?**** Yes.

****Do all wisdom teeth need to come out?**** No — only where there's a clinical reason to remove them.

****What is pericoronitis?**** Recurrent infection around a partially erupted wisdom tooth.

****What nerve is at risk in lower wisdom tooth extractions?**** The inferior alveolar nerve, which controls sensation to the lower lip and chin.

****What structure is at risk in upper wisdom tooth extractions?**** The maxillary sinus.

****What's the recommended age for easier removal?**** Late teens to mid-twenties, when roots are less formed and bone is less dense.

****Does delaying treatment make surgery harder?**** Generally yes — waiting until complications arise typically results in a more demanding extraction and longer recovery.