



Preparing for your day procedure - Starved

Before your day procedure

It is important that you follow any instructions which have been given as part of preparation for an operation or procedure (provided at your consultation, pre-operative assessment or written information sent with patient letters).

Confirming acceptance of your surgery date

The date that you have been given for surgery is the earliest date that your surgeon is able to offer you following your self-isolation period. You need to contact the number printed on your admission letter as soon as possible to either confirm your acceptance or to let us know this date is not suitable

Admission time

You will be advised of your admission time prior to your admission date. Before the day of your surgery you will be told where to report.

Admission on the day of surgery

Please check your admission letter carefully and note the admission date and admission time. It is essential that eating and drinking guidelines are followed in order for your treatment to be carried out safely.

- You can drink plain water up to **1 hour before your admission time**
- Drinking enough water will help your wound to heal and will reduce your risk of pressure ulcers and blood clots.
- You must not have any food, boiled sweets, chewing gum, mints, tea, coffee, milk, fizzy drinks or juices for **6 hours before your admission.**

Your nominated person should bring you to hospital. They can drop you off, but should leave after you have entered the premises.

They must stay self-isolated until you are ready to be discharged.

On arrival you will be given a face mask to wear and asked to sanitise your hands. If you require assistance (e.g. wheelchair) you can contact the porters on the phone located opposite the Courtyard Garden.

It is anticipated that you will be admitted and discharged on the same day and we operate staggered admission times in order to facilitate the smooth flow of patients through ADCU.

Occasionally, it is necessary for some patients to have an unplanned overnight stay or later discharge from another ward. Please ensure you bring a small overnight bag.

Please note: Your admission time is not the time of your operation.

On the day of admission staff will be able to advise you of an approximate time for your operation. Occasionally due to unforeseen circumstances, your procedure time may be subject to change. We ask for your cooperation and patience if this should happen to you.

Planning ahead

To ensure your treatment goes as smoothly as possible, please use the following instructions to help plan ahead.

- Ensure you have contingency plans in place (e.g. for children, pets) in case you need to be kept in overnight.
- You must organise for a responsible adult to be with you at home for the first 24 hours (this must be your nominated person who self-isolated for 14 days).
- Bring all your medication (including inhalers) in their original container on the



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day.

- Take your regular medication as normal on the day of admission, with a sip of water only unless you have been advised otherwise by the hospital.
- Ensure you have at least a seven day supply of Paracetamol and Ibuprofen (if tolerated), or your normal painkillers, at home ready for when you are discharged.
- Be aware that some foods are not always available at the hospital. If you are on a special diet such as gluten free, please bring in some of your own foods.
- Remove make-up, nail varnish and false nails before arrival.
- Come in sensible footwear and loose clothing to allow room for large dressings around the operation site after your procedure.
- Bring a dressing gown and slippers, as you will walk to the theatre department if you are able to.
- Try to refrain from smoking for at least 1 week before your operation.
- Only bring money for use on the day
- Bring something to read as you may have to wait some time for your procedure.
- Remove all jewellery. Wedding rings may be left on unless your procedure is for that particular hand/arm.

Valuable items

Storage space is very limited in ADCU and on the ward. For the safekeeping of your belongings whilst you are in theatre your luggage will be kept in a lockable locker, measuring length 60cm x width 40cm x height 30cm (23 x 15 x 11 inches). Therefore we ask you to only bring a bag which will fit in to the

lockable space.

Infection control

You are encouraged to ask any member of staff to clean their hands before touching you. Our Infection Control Team works alongside all staff to promote best practice, but there are some things you can do yourself to reduce the risk of infection to you and other patients.

- Eat a healthy balanced diet and drink plenty of water.
- In order to reduce the risk of infection and give you the best possible outcome we would ask that you take a hot soapy bath or shower on the night before surgery and the morning of surgery, including washing your hair.
- Do not use deodorant spray, body lotion or perfume.
- Please ensure you wear a full set of clean clothes for admission.
- Clip your nails.
- Remove any nail polish from fingers and toes.
- Do not shave the area of surgery.
- Only bring in essential items with you so your bed space remains clean.
- There is a no flowers policy at the ROH.
- Always wear slippers or light shoes.
- Inform the nurse if your dressing is wet or loose.
- Never share your toiletries.
- Never sit on other patient's beds or chairs.

Pain

When you go home you will be given pain killers if you need them. Information on how to take your painkillers will also be given to you. If



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your need more pain killers after you have used these, you will need to see your GP who will discuss further pain relief with you.

Nutrition

Good nutrition is important as it is critical to the healing process. A well balanced diet helps you to recover more quickly and reduces the risk of complications. You need to increase the amount of protein you eat in the weeks before and after your surgery. By increasing your protein intake, it will help your body heal itself more quickly and effectively. Protein is found in foods such as chicken, fish, and eggs (try to avoid greasy, fried foods). If you are a vegetarian make sure you are meeting your protein needs.

Add dark green leafy vegetables into your meals before and after surgery, such as cabbage, spinach, broccoli, and asparagus. These contain vitamins and minerals which will speed up your healing rate and aid in your recovery. Try to drink 8-10 glasses of water daily in the weeks before and after your surgery. This will help your wound to heal well, make you less tired and help you to recover more quickly. If you are normally on a restricted fluid intake, please consult medical staff before changing your fluid intake.

What are hospital-associated blood clots?

A hospital-associated blood clot occurs in patients when they are in hospital, and up to ninety days after a hospital admission.

There are two kinds:

1. Deep vein thrombosis (DVT): a DVT is a blood clot (also known as a thrombosis) that forms in a deep vein, most commonly in your leg or pelvis. It may cause no symptoms at all or cause swelling, redness and pain.
2. Pulmonary embolism (PE): If a clot becomes dislodged and passes through your

blood vessels it can reach your lungs, this is called a PE. Symptoms include coughing (with blood stained phlegm), chest pain and breathlessness. If left untreated a PE can lead to death.

Health professionals use the term venous thromboembolism (VTE), to cover both DVT and PE. If you develop any of these symptoms either in hospital or after your go home, please get medical advice immediately.

Are blood clots common?

Blood clots occur in the general population in about one in 1000 people every year. You may have heard about DVT in people who have been on an aeroplane, but you are much more likely to get a blood clot after going into hospital. About two thirds of all blood clots occur during or after a stay in hospital. Each patients risk is assessed on admission to hospital. If you are at risk, your doctor or nurse will talk with you about what will be done to offer you protection against clots.

Who is at risk?

Any unwell adult admitted to hospital is at risk. Other examples of factors that put people at greater risk include:

- having an operation
- a previous clot
- a recent diagnosis of cancer
- certain 'sticky blood' conditions such as antiphospholipid syndrome or Factor V Leiden
- being overweight
- being immobile
- oestrogen-containing contraceptives and hormone replacement
- significant injury or trauma



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- during and after pregnancy

What can be done to reduce my risk?

Inflatable sleeves: You may be asked to wear calf or foot pumps; special inflatable sleeves around your legs or feet while you are in bed or sat still in a chair. These will inflate automatically and provide pressure at regular intervals, increasing blood flow out of your legs.

Stockings: In hospital, you might be measured and fitted with anti-embolism stockings for your legs. You should be shown how to wear them and told to report any new pain or discomfort in your feet or legs. You should remove your stockings for a short time every day so that you can have a wash and check for any skin problems.

Blood thinners: Most patients at risk will be prescribed a small dose of an anticoagulant (blood thinner). These reduce the chance of having a blood clot by thinning your blood slightly. If you need to take these medicines when you leave hospital, you will be told how long to take them for. The blood thinner most often used is a type of heparin, which is given by injection. Please be aware that some 'blood thinners' are derived from animal origins, please discuss with your nurse or doctor if this is a concern to you.

There may be reasons why some of the above are not suitable for you. To be effective, these methods of prevention must be used correctly and the course prescribed completed. If you have any questions or concerns, please ask your doctor or nurse.

What can I do to help myself?

If possible, before coming into hospital:

- Talk to your doctor about contraceptive or hormone replacement therapy. Your doctor may consider stopping them in the weeks

before an operation and will provide advice on temporary use of other methods if your usual contraceptive is stopped.

- Keep a healthy weight.
- Do regular exercise
- physiotherapist for more information
- Ask your doctor or nurse: "What is being done to reduce my risk of clots?"
- Drink plenty of fluid to keep hydrated.

When in hospital:

- Keep moving or walking and get out of bed as soon as you are able after an operation – ask your nurse or physiotherapist for more information.
- Ask your doctor or nurse: "What is being done to reduce my risk of clots?"
- Drink plenty of fluid to keep hydrated.

What happens when I go home?

You will be informed about when and where your discharge will take place so that you can inform your nominated person. A period of post operative self isolation will be required for all but very minor surgery to protect you from contracting the virus in the early post-operative period. Your medical team will advise you what is required.

Until you return to your usual level of activity, you may need to wear anti-embolism stockings after you go home. Your nurse will tell you how to put them on and what you should check your skin for. If you need to continue anticoagulation injections at home, your nursing team will provide information and teach you how to do this. If you have any concerns make sure you speak to a nurse before you leave. It is important that you complete the prescribed course. If you develop any sign or symptoms of a clot at home, seek medical



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advice immediately, either from your General Practitioner (GP) or your nearest hospital's emergency department.

Further information

Please ask your doctor or nurse for more information.

- NHS Choices website patient information on blood clots. Visit www.nhs.uk/thrombosis
- Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) – To make comments or raise concerns about the Trust's services, Contact 0121 685 4128
- NHS 111– Offers health information and advice from specially trained nurses over the phone 24 hours a day.

Car parking

Parking is available at gate entrance A and C. Further information about parking can be found on our website www.roh.nhs.uk

Confidentiality

The Trust is committed to keeping your information safe and secure, and to protecting your confidentiality. For more information about how we do this please read the Trust's leaflet "Ensuring Information Confidentiality" This is available in waiting areas, on the Trust website or by contacting the Communications team, if you would like a copy of this leaflet or require a copy in another language or format please contact the Communications team on 0121 685 4329.