

Pre-Operative Assessment Service (POAS)

Your Pre-Operative Assessment

Do I need to come into the Hospital?

Usually, no. Most Pre-Operative Assessments are done over the phone or on-line. We will contact you. If you do need to come in, see the information at the end of the sheet.

What is a Pre-Operative Assessment?

You will be contacted for an assessment because you and your surgeon have agreed you may need an operation. Your surgeon should have explained what the operation involves and why it is needed as well as any risks involved in you going ahead with surgery.

If you are still only discussing options with your surgeon, this assessment will provide information that will guide you and your surgeon to making the right decision for you.

The Pre-Operative Assessment will

- look at your overall health, and advise whether it is safe to undergo surgery
- check whether we need to take special precautions (such as needing intensive care afterwards)
- check whether we need to improve your health first.
- Your surgeon will have told us how urgent the operation is, so we will take that into account. Once we have passed you as fit for surgery, the surgical team will add you to their waiting list.



Patient Information

Can I do anything to prepare for it?

In order to complete your assessment efficiently, we will need you to have:

- a list of your current medicines or any current prescriptions with you.
- details about any tests and treatments you are having at other hospitals (such as appointment letters)
- any recent blood pressure measurements to hand

If you know a member of your family has had problems with anaesthetics, ask them if they know what happened. Very rarely, serious reactions to anaesthetics run in the family.

What will happen during my Pre-Operative Assessment?

You will usually be asked a series of questions, either in an on-line form or over the phone.

- If it's done online, a specialist pre-operative assessment nurse will go through your responses and may need to call you to ask for more information.
- If it's done by telephone, you will be taken through the questionnaire by the nurse, who may go into more detail on some things.

The nurse will also have access to any hospital records kept electronically in UHCW, and with your permission can access your current prescription from your GP. The sort of things we ask about are to:

- find how active you are and any physical and mental health problems
- check any allergies you may have and what reactions happen
- ensure we have a list of the medicines you take which is accurate
- ask you if you smoke, drink alcohol or take recreational drugs

In a few cases we will ask you to come into hospital for a face to face appointment. This may be because we were not able to fully assess you by other means, or we are expecting you to need to be in the hospital for other reasons (such as an appointment with another specialist, or need to see an anaesthetist).

Information Leaflets

Your surgeon should have given you leaflets to read about the operation. We will give you information about the experience of having the operation,

Patient Information

in particular, important information about the Anaesthetic, and about recovering after surgery.

Clinic Contact details

If you need to contact us with extra information, or you have a problem, you can call 024 7696 6352. If you need to write to us our address is:

Coventry:

Pre-Op Assessment Service
Outpatients Department
University Hospital (UHCW), Coventry CV2 2DX

Rugby:

Pre-Op Assessment Service
Outpatients Department
Hospital of St Cross
Barby Rd, Rugby CV22 5PX

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format please contact 024 7696 6393 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy.

Document History

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