

## General Surgery

### Abscess surgery

A doctor or advanced clinical practitioner has diagnosed you with an abscess. You need a day case surgery to drain the infection.

You will have a general anaesthetic for the surgery. This will make you sleep during the surgery.

We may give you antibiotics and painkillers to take home. Please take the medicines given to you as prescribed.

We will arrange your surgery and you will go home.

You will then return to hospital for surgery at **day**..... **time**.....

Please go to the **Surgical Assessment Unit (SAU), Ward 12, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor** when you arrive for surgery.

### What will happen on the surgery day?

You will have surgery, before being cared for in our recovery area.

You will then move to our discharge lounge to wait for a family member or friend to collect you if you:

- are fit and well
- have an adult who can stay with you for 24 hours after you go home
- have arranged for your friend or family member to take you home.

**You cannot drive yourself and you should not take a taxi or bus.**

**Please contact us urgently if you do not have an adult friend or family member available to collect you.**

**Phone SAU on 02476 965742 or 02476 965743**

You may need to wait if you are unwell or it is late in the day. You may go home later the same day or early the next morning.

However, sometimes you cannot have your surgery on the day. This happens when we need to prioritise another patient's emergency surgery. Your operation will be rearranged for the next day if this happens.



## Patient Information

### Before surgery

- You can drink squash, black tea, or black coffee until **6am** on the day of your surgery. You can drink water until **7am** on the day of your surgery.
- **Please bring with you all medicines that you usually take.**

### What to not do before surgery

- Please **do not eat food or drink milk after 2am** on the day of surgery.
- Please **do not eat sweets or chew gum** on the day of surgery.
- Please **do not take any diabetic or blood pressure medication** on the day of surgery.
- Please **do not bring valuables or large sums of money**, except for small change for the patient line TV and phone.
- Please **do not wear make-up, nail varnish or jewellery.**
- Please **remove contact lenses** if you wear them.
- If you smoke or vape, **we strongly advise that you do not smoke on the day of surgery and for 48 hours after surgery.**

### After surgery and going home

- You need to stay for a short time after surgery. You will be cared for by a nurse who will decide when you can go home.
- It is important that a friend or family member collects you and takes you home.
- You must not drive yourself home and you should not drive for 48hrs after surgery.
- You need to have an adult stay with you at home for 24 hours after your surgery.
- Do not drink alcohol.
- Do not operate any appliance or machinery.
- You should not make any important decisions or sign legal documents.

### **When you are home**

#### **Wound dressing**

Please make an appointment with the practice nurse at your GP surgery to have your dressings changed. Your practice nurse will decide how often this is needed.

If your operation is on a Friday or Saturday, you need to go to your nearest walk-in centre for the first change of dressing. Then you can contact your GP surgery on the next Monday to arrange the next dressing change.

#### **Medicines**

Please take your painkillers and other prescribed medicines at home following the instructions provided by the nurse.

#### **Returning to activities**

It is important that you return to your usual activities within your own capabilities. You should be able to return to work 2 weeks after surgery. However, this depends on your type of work.

**Please do not drive for at least 48 hours after surgery.** Your return to driving will depend on how comfortable you are and where your wound is. If your wound is uncomfortable when you are sitting, you should not drive until the wound has healed or you are more comfortable.

#### **If you have any problems after surgery**

- Within 24 hours of surgery, phone 02476 965742 or 02476 965743
- After 24 hours since surgery, phone your GP surgery

#### **Contact details**

If you have any questions or concerns, please phone the Surgical Assessment Unit (SAU), Ward 12, on 02476 965742 or 02476 965743

Please contact us as soon as possible if you are concerned or unsatisfied with your care. We can try to resolve the problem at the time.

## Patient Information

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this Information in another language or format, please contact 024 7696 5742 or 024 7696 5743 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy.

### Did we get it right?

We would like you to tell us what you think about our services. This helps us make further improvements and recognise members of staff who provide a good service.



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[www.uhcw.nhs.uk/feedback](http://www.uhcw.nhs.uk/feedback)

#### Document History

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