Preparation for your operation and Theatre Direct Admission

Information for patients having an incision and drainage of an abscess
Theatre Direct Admission

Theatre Direct Admissions (TDA) is a way of admitting patients on the same day as their operation, rather than them having to spend the night on a ward.

You will be asked to come to the Theatre Direct Admissions Unit at the John Radcliffe Hospital.
Preparing for your operation

Smoking
Do not smoke on the morning of your surgery. If possible before your operation try to give up altogether or cut down. The hospital has a no smoking policy so you won’t be able to smoke before or after your operation. If you need advice or help to stop smoking please contact the smoking cessation advisor at your GP practice.

Eating and drinking
You must not eat any solid food, chew gum or suck sweets for 6 hours before your general anaesthetic.

You may drink clear fluids only (e.g. water or squash) up to 2 hours before your general anaesthetic.

Drink plenty of fluids, preferably water, the day before your operation to help keep your body well hydrated.

If you are coming in for your operation first thing in the morning do not have anything to eat, chew gum or suck sweets from midnight. You may drink water or clear fluids until 6am.

For your own safety it is very important that you do not have anything to eat or drink after the times stated. If you do, your operation may be cancelled or delayed.

Medications
Continue to take your regular medications as usual, unless told otherwise by a doctor or nurse. Please bring all your medicines with you to the hospital.

Bring with you:
• All your medications
• Dressing gown, slippers and toiletries
• Something to help pass the time whilst you wait e.g. book or magazine.
Valuables

Please do not bring any valuables or large amounts of cash with you. A wedding band can be left on and will be taped on your finger before going to theatre. All other jewellery must be removed.

Please remove any make-up or nail varnish.

How to find us

Please park in Car Park 1 and enter the main hospital building where you will see signs to Theatre Direct Admissions. The department can be found on Level 1 of the main John Radcliffe Hospital, opposite the Radiology department.

Admission

Please arrive at 7:30am on the day of your operation.

One escort should accompany you to hospital as there is limited space. The area is not suitable for children, so please do not bring them with you.

Your escort will be given a telephone number with a time to call to tell them when to come and collect you. Please make sure that you also have someone responsible to stay with you overnight after your operation.
On arrival

The theatre staff will book you in, check your details and put your identification wristband on. One of the nurses will record your blood pressure, pulse and temperature and ask you some questions to make sure you are correctly prepared for your operation. Staff will keep you informed of what will happen throughout your stay.

The surgeon may well have seen you already before your Theatre Direct Admission. They should have already explained the procedure and you may have already signed a consent form, but if this hasn’t happened the surgeon will come and talk to you and answer any questions you may have.

If you have any questions or concerns now is the time to ask.
You may have to wait for your operation. The reception staff will tell you when to put on your theatre gown and your dressing gown and slippers.

If a premedication (medicine to be given before you go in for the operation) has been prescribed by the anaesthetist the nurse will give this to you.

A member of staff will go with you to the anaesthetic room where you will be asked to lie down on a trolley. The nurse will go through a safety checklist with you and re-check your consent form. Some sticky pads connected to a heart monitor will be attached to your chest and a blood pressure cuff will be put on your arm.

The anaesthetist will put a needle into a vein in the back of your hand to give you the anaesthetic. When you are asleep a tube will be put into your windpipe to help your breathing. This will be taken out before you wake up (this may leave you with a sore throat after surgery but drinking water little and often will help relieve this).
After your operation you will spend some time in the Post Anaesthetic Care Unit (PACU) before being taken to the transfer lounge.

Once the doctor has decided that you can go home you will be allowed to leave. A discharge letter will be given to you with any medication that you may need e.g. antibiotics and pain killers. A practice nurse letter may also be given to you and instructions on any wound care that may be needed. If you have any questions or concerns please contact:-

Surgical Emergency Unit: **01865 221 821**

Or

Theatre Direct Admissions: **01865 221 050**
If you have a specific requirement, need an interpreter, a document in Easy Read, another language, large print, Braille or audio version, please call 01865 221 473 or email PALSJR@ouh.nhs.uk