

Welcome to the Adult Surgical Unit

Information and advice for patients

Adult Surgical Unit

Welcome to the Adult Surgical Unit at the Birmingham Treatment Centre. Our unit is a state-of-the-art surgical unit for patients who need to stay in hospital for up to 23 hours. We aim to provide outstanding care that is individual and holistic to each patient who comes to the unit.

Where is the adult surgical unit?

Address:

Birmingham Treatment Centre
City Hospital
Dudley Road
Birmingham
B18 7QH

The Adult Surgical Unit is on the second floor in the Birmingham Treatment Centre.

You will need to take the stairs or the lift from the ground floor as the escalators stop at the first floor.

Preparing to come into hospital

Eating and drinking

We have sent you an admission letter telling you when to stop eating (including sweets and chewing gum) and drinking before you come into hospital. Please follow these instructions carefully as failure to do so may mean your operation has to be cancelled.

Washing

On the day before and morning of coming into hospital you should have a bath or a shower. If you were given antiseptic wash in the pre-operative assessment clinic please use this. Please also remove all nail varnish and do not wear any make up. If you have false nails please remove these before coming into hospital.

Medication

If you normally take prescribed medicines, tablets, inhalers or injections only take those as advised by the nurse at your pre-assessment appointment, with only a sip of water. If you are unsure about what medication to take please contact the unit the day before your admission.

If you are unwell

Please contact us if you have had symptoms of diarrhoea and/or vomiting in the 72 hours (3 days) before coming into hospital.

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What to bring into hospital

Please bring the following items with you:

- Any medication you are taking regularly
- Something to pass the time, e.g. a paper, book or magazine
- Anything else requested in your admission letter
- If you have been told you could be staying overnight, you may wish to bring your own nightwear and toiletries
- Depending on the type of surgery you are having you may want to bring loose fitting clothing

Please note that any personal items you bring with you will be at your own risk and mobile phones cannot be used within the unit and must be kept switched off.

Please do not bring:

- Large amounts of money or any valuables
- Jewellery (except a wedding ring)

What happens when I arrive?

You will need to report to the Adult Surgical Unit on the second floor of the Birmingham treatment centre at the desk outside the doors marked surgical unit 1.

Your appointment time is the time you need to arrive so the nursing staff can admit you onto the ward. You will be booked onto the ward and will be met by a member of staff who will show you to your bed space.

Please let the nurse know if you have taken any medication on the day of your surgery. The nurse will also ask for details of who will be collecting you when you are discharged, as you will need to have a responsible adult with you for the 24 hours following your operation. He/she will also talk to you about what to expect after the operation and will start planning your discharge.

Your surgeon and the anaesthetist will then come to see you to answer any questions you may have and ask you to sign a consent form for your surgery.

There are 6 operating theatres on the unit so some patients who arrive after you may be called in before you if they are waiting for a different surgeon. We have not forgotten you and you can ask the nurse in charge for an update at any time.

We offer a range of sandwiches, crisps, fruit and toast after your surgery and provide a hot evening meal for patients staying overnight. Please let a member of the nursing team know if you have any special dietary requirements when you arrive.

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What happens after my operation?

After your operation you will be expected to actively participate in your recovery by doing as much as you can do safely for yourself.

You can expect to be in hospital for most of the day and will be discharged when the nurses and doctors looking after your care judge it is safe for you to do so.

Visitors to the ward

As we are a busy unit we do not have visiting for patients who will only be staying with us for the day.

Patients who are staying with us overnight may have visitors between 5pm - 7pm.

Only 2 visitors are allowed per patient at one time, and children under 12 years are not allowed. Other arrangements may be made but must be agreed by the nurse in charge.

Visitors must make sure they wash their hands or use the hand gel when entering and leaving the ward and should not sit on the patient's beds.

Relatives are welcome to call the ward to check the progress of patients. We will be happy to answer any questions they may have.

Comments on your care

If you or your relatives are unhappy with any aspect of your care on the ward please do not hesitate to speak to the Ward Manager or Ward Sister, who will do everything possible to fix the problem. If neither is on duty you can speak to the senior staff nurse.

If you feel unable to discuss your concerns with the ward staff directly, then you can contact the Patient Advice Liaison Service (PALS) on 0121 507 5836, 9am-5pm Monday – Friday. Please see the 'Your views matter' leaflet for more information.

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Contact details

If you have any questions or queries please call the unit on:

Pod A - 0121 507 6192

Pod B - 0121 507 6190

7am-9.30pm Monday - Friday

Further information

Please note that City Hospital is a no smoking area. Patients and visitors are not permitted to smoke anywhere within the buildings except outside, within designated smoking shelters.

For more information about our hospitals and services please see our websites www.swbh.nhs.uk and www.swbhengage.com, follow us on Twitter @SWBHnhs and like us on Facebook www.facebook.com/SWBHnhs.

If you would like to suggest any amendments or improvements to this leaflet please contact the communications department on 0121 507 5495 or email: swb-tr.swbh-gm-patient-information@nhs.net



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