

*Better
Together*

Patient information

Patients needing Orthopaedic Surgery due
to Trauma

Trauma and Orthopaedic Directorate

The following information is a general guide to the way the Orthopaedic Emergency Operating List is planned (Trauma List).

Trauma lists run every day of the week, usually starting at 9am and finishing at 5pm. However occasionally they finish at 8pm, and during the week there are usually two lists available.

At 7.30am every morning, a multi Consultant meeting is held, to discuss all new admissions and all patients who are waiting for surgery, both inpatients and those at home. The theatre lists are then decided.

Trauma is unpredictable, so on some days we have more patients to operate on than theatre space available. In this incidence patients are prioritised using the following criteria.

- Life threatening injuries.
- Open injuries, i.e., when bone is exposed,
- Limb threatening injuries, e.g., if the blood supply or nerves have been damaged
- Older patients requiring major surgery.
- All other delays, in order of injury date.

Once the operating list has been decided, the Consultant of the week will see all the patients who are on the theatre list.

If we have more patients than theatre space, a provisional plan will be made for those patients who have not made it onto that day's list. Inpatients will be told by the Consultant of the week, and any patients waiting at home will be contacted by one of the Trauma co-ordinators as soon after the trauma meeting as possible.

If theatre space becomes available at Broadgreen hospital we may arrange for your surgery to be done there.

The order of the list may be changed for operational reasons, so it is very important that you do not have anything to eat and drink unless specifically allowed to by the Orthopaedic Consultant, or the Consultant Anaesthetist.

Your operation may be delayed or cancelled for a number of reasons, these may include:

- You have a pre-existing medical condition that needs to be treated first or may require further tests before an anaesthetic may be given.
- You may require further investigations before surgery e.g. a specialist scan such as an MRI, CT or bone scan.
- Other patients are admitted who need to be prioritised before you.
- The number of patients requiring surgery exceeds the amount of operating time available. This may cause delays for some less urgent cases.
- Operational difficulties in the operating theatre, e.g., no anaesthetic cover after 5pm, availability of specialist equipment, staff sickness.
- Too much swelling around the injury which may make the surgery unsafe, due to the increased risk of infection.
- You may need to be referred to a specific specialist for an opinion or for your surgery.

Wherever possible we try to avoid cancelling surgery, as this can be very distressing to you. We regularly monitor the progress of the theatre list and liaise with other departments to ensure necessary tests are done in a timely fashion.

Every effort is made by the staff involved, to ensure the smooth running of the theatre list and to keep you and your relatives informed of what is happening.

If your operation is cancelled late in the day, we do our best to prioritise you for the following day, but this is again dependent upon the new admissions.

If your operation is delayed or cancelled and you feel unsure about what is happening, please ask the ward staff to bleep the Trauma Co-ordinator who will come and see you and answer your questions.

Alternatively a junior member of the medical team may be available to speak to you at short notice. If your family would like to see the Consultant who is looking after you, an appointment can be made through their secretary.

Many patients are worried that they may not get food and drinks whilst they are waiting for surgery, especially if their operation is cancelled or delayed more than once.

Ward staff will be able to get food and drink for you, as snacks and meals are available outside of normal mealtimes from the catering staff. Dietary supplements, where prescribed, are always available on the wards.

Do not hesitate to ask a member of staff for help if you have any questions or worries about your surgery.

Further Information

Orthopaedic Trauma Co-ordinators

Helen Haines and Michelle Nolan

Monday – Friday

7.00am to 7.00pm

Saturday and Sunday

Rotational cover

7.00am – 3.00pm

Tel: 0151 706 2000 and ask for bleep 4638

Text phone number 18001 0151 706 2000 Bleep 4638

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All Trust approved information is available on request in alternative formats, including other languages, easy read, large print, audio, Braille, moon and electronically.

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در صورت تمایل میتوانید کلیه اطلاعات تصویب شده توسط اتحادیه در رابطه با بیماران را به اشکال مختلف در دسترس داشته باشید، از جمله به زبانهای دیگر، به زبان ساده، چاپ درشت، صوت، خط مخصوص کوران، مون و بصورت روی خطی موجود است.

زانیاری پیومندیدار یو نمخوشانهی له لایمن تراستهوه پسهند کراون، نهگس داوا بکریت له فورماتهکانی تردا بریتی له زمانهکانی تر، نیز ی رید (هاسان خویندنهوه)، چاپی گهوره، شریتی دهنک، هیلی موون و ئلیکترۆنیکی هیه.

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