

Patient information

Treatment under General Anaesthesia Guidance for Patients and Carers

Special Care Dentistry – Liverpool University Dental Hospital

You have been placed on the waiting list for dental treatment under general anaesthesia.

What is General Anaesthesia?

General anaesthesia (GA) means that you will be unconscious throughout your dental treatment.

The GA will be administered by a consultant anaesthetist. You may be given premedication, often in the form of a flavoured drink or nasal spray which will make you sleepy.

To go to sleep you may have a small injection in the back of your hand or breathe the anaesthetic gases through a mask.

Please let us know if you have had problems during or after general anaesthesia in the past, or if there is a family history of problems.

Where will I be treated?

On the day of your appointment please present to the dental theatre through the main entrance of Liverpool University Dental Hospital Pembroke Place, Liverpool, L3 5PS. at the time advised.

How will I be informed of my admission date?

Your admission date will be sent out to you in the post.

You will be contacted by the Dental Hospital theatre nurses in the week before your admission. This is a normal procedure to ensure you have a trouble free visit on the day.

What dental treatment will I have?

The dental team will have discussed your likely treatment at your initial assessment visit in the Special Care Dentistry Department. It usually involves carrying out all the necessary dental treatment such as fillings, extractions and scaling. It is also possible to undertake simple medical tests (e.g. taking blood) if requested by your doctor.

How long will my treatment take?

You should allow the whole day. Your treatment will occur before lunch and can take up to two hours. In most cases you will be allowed home by early afternoon.

Should I bring someone with me?

Yes, arrange to come with two adult relatives, friends or carers who will stay in the hospital during your treatment and take you home by car or taxi (public transport is not recommended). They can accompany you until you are asleep and can be there after you wake up.

Do I need to fast before my general anaesthetic?

Yes. You must not eat from midnight the night before. You may have a drink of water before 6am on the day of your operation. We may not be able to carry out your treatment if you do not follow these instructions. If you take medication, follow the advice below.

Should I take my usual medication?

Yes, take your usual medicines on the morning of your appointment with as small amount of water possible, not in food or yoghurt. If this is likely to be a problem for you, please inform the special care dentistry or dental theatre teams.

Bring your medication with you or alternatively a repeat prescription or drugs sheet.

What will I wear?

Wear sensible clothing e.g. flat shoes, T-shirts and jogging bottoms. You may wish to bring a change of clothing. Please bring with you all items you need for personal care.

What will happen after my operation?

You will stay in our unit until you are fully recovered and ready to go home. Once you are awake your escort(s) may come back in to see you.

What should I do for the rest of the day?

You should rest for the remainder of the day, not returning to work/school/daycentre.

You should not operate any machinery or carry out household tasks such as cooking or cleaning.

You must have someone to look after you until the next morning.

General anaesthesia may make you feel tired for a few days and you may have a sore throat - this is normal.

What should I do if I have a query or concern once I am home after my operation?

If you have a dental problem please telephone:

The Special Care Dentistry department

Tel: 0151 706 5530

Text phone number: 18001 0151 706 5530 for advice

Mon - Fri 9.00am - 4.30 pm.

Out of office hours please contact

NHS Direct on 111.

If you have a medical problem please contact your GP or NHS Direct (111)

Have we missed anything?

We want to make your stay as straight forward as possible so please inform the dentists or nurses **before** the day of admission if you become upset by loud noises, specific words, sounds, clinical clothing etc as we will do our best to avoid these.

Please ring us on 0151 705 5530/5012 if you are unwell in the days before your visit as we may need to delay treatment until you are better.

Text phone number: 18001 01510705 5530/5012

Special Care Dentistry Department

Tel: 0151 706 5530

Text phone number: 18001 0151 706 5530

Dental Theatre

Tel: 0151 706 5012

Text phone number: 18001 0151 706 5012

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Review Date: December 2026

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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