

Information for patients

Managing your medicines in preparation for a procedure and/or a hospital admission



Pharmacy

About our pre-operative pharmacy service

Before your operation you will be invited for a pre-operative assessment. This is completed by the pre-operative assessment clinical team and may take place by telephone or in person at a clinic appointment.

An important part of the pre-operative assessment is providing you with advice about your medicines in preparation for surgery. Medicines need careful management for surgery and anaesthesia.

The pre-operative assessment clinical team includes pharmacists and pharmacy technicians. They prepare your medicines list ahead of your assessment. This may involve requesting information from your medical records. This may include contacting medical records or any specialist teams who look after your health.

Sometimes we will contact you about your medicines before you attend clinic. Talking to you about your medicines ahead of your clinic appointment gives us time to ensure we manage certain medicines safely.

Do I need to stop any medicines for surgery?

Some medicines may need to be discontinued temporarily, we will talk to you about this either over the telephone or at your clinic appointment and provide written instructions. If your appointment is over the telephone, you can request the instructions by post or email.

Please remember the advice we give to you is only for your operation. Sometimes you may be advised to stop medicines before you attend clinic. This is usually because your date for surgery is soon, or certain medicines need a particularly long stop before surgery.

Do I bring my medicines to hospital?

If you are staying overnight at the hospital, we request the following:

- Please bring a week's worth of your prescribed medicines with you (in their original labelled pharmacy boxes where possible). The exception to this is controlled drugs (see below).
- We generally ask that you leave controlled drugs (CDs) e.g. morphine, at home for safety – we will advise you about this when we speak to you about your medicines.
- Your medicine patches should be worn while in hospital unless you have been specifically asked to discontinue them. Patches that continue will be kept in place for your operation and changed on the usual day.
- If your medicines are packed into a 'blister pack' tray by your pharmacy, we suggest you ask for a small supply in boxes in preparation for your stay with us. If you are unable to organise this, please contact pharmacy so that we can ensure medicines are available during your stay **01691 404339**

PLEASE NOTE

Don't pop your pills into a pill-pot or dosette box as we are unable to use these during your admission

Is there anything else I need to remember?

If you use additional equipment with your medicines remember to bring this with you.

Examples could include a nebuliser, spacer for inhaler, insulin needles, blood glucose patches, machines and testing strips, insulin pump tubing and cannulas.

Is there anything I can do at home to prepare for surgery?

In preparation for your procedure, it is helpful to consider what you may need when you return home.

- Ensure you have a supply of your regular medicines so that you won't run short
- Purchase some simple pain relief such as paracetamol and gentle laxatives from your pharmacy

We have a shop on site, however we are unable to sell medicines when you are an inpatient on the ward. The service is available 9am–5pm to patients attending the site for clinic appointment should you wish to buy medicines from us.

What if my medicines change before surgery?

If your medicines change it is important you tell us as it may affect your surgery. Please contact our pre-operative department to discuss
Tel: **01691 664878**

What if my surgery is cancelled?

If your surgery is cancelled and you are unsure what to do about your medicines, please call the pharmacy department Tel: **01691 404339**

After surgery

After surgery we will provide the additional medicines, you require. Any changes to regular medicines should be communicated to you and we will check you have sufficient supply for 7 days either at home or on the ward.

Some medicines need special disposal and safe handling, particularly needles and controlled medicines such as morphine. Please return these to your local GP or pharmacy who will have disposal routes available to them. You may also bring them back to us at your follow-up appointment.

Notes:

A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing notes.

If you require a special edition of this leaflet

This leaflet is available in large print. Arrangements can also be made on request for it to be explained in your preferred language. Please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) email: rjah.pals.office@nhs.net

Feedback

Tell us what you think of our patient information leaflet. Please send your comments to the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) email: rjah.pals.office@nhs.net

Further Information

Please contact Preop with any questions or if you're concerned on **01601 664878**. If there is no one to take your call please leave your name and number on the answer machine.

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