

Ophthalmology: Western Eye and Charing Cross hospitals

# Preparing for day surgery or a short stay in hospital

## Introduction

**This leaflet is for patients undergoing ophthalmic or eye operations only.**

This leaflet provides information about your day surgery or short stay in hospital and what will happen while you are here. We hope it will answer some of the questions that you or those who care for you may have at this time. This leaflet is not meant to replace the consultation between you and your medical team, but aims to help you understand more about what to expect before your operation.

## How do I prepare for my operation?

- Remove all nail varnish/jewellery/piercings before coming into hospital
- Please take all your medications as usual, including inhalers, unless otherwise advised by the pre-assessment nurse
- If you are taking regular anticoagulants or blood-thinning medications, please make sure you have your INR level checked in your local anticoagulant clinic or in the pre-assessment area
- Please do not bring anything valuable into hospital. We cannot guarantee the safety of valuables and will not accept responsibility for lost items

## What will happen on the day of my operation?

### Check-in

When you arrive at the hospital please report to the reception/security desk and they will direct you to the relevant department.

If you are having a general anaesthetic you will go to the Alex Cross ward on the second floor of the Western Eye Hospital. If you are having local anaesthetic, please go to the day care unit on the fourth floor of the Western Eye Hospital or first floor Riverside wing at Charing Cross Hospital. Your admission letter will tell you which hospital to attend.

If you are coming in for vitrectomy eye surgery at the Western Eye Hospital, please go straight to the second floor regardless of which type of anesthesia you are having.

### Waiting area

Please check-in at reception and take a seat in the waiting area. Unfortunately, due to the limited number of seats, relatives and carers cannot wait with you. Please ask them to leave their contact details with the receptionist and we will contact them after your operation. There is a café on the ground floor of both hospitals selling a selection of drinks and food where your relatives and carers can wait if they wish.

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### **Checks before your procedure**

The nurse/healthcare assistant will prepare you for your surgery and check your blood pressure, pulse and temperature. The nurse will give you any necessary eye medications such as pellets or drops to dilate your pupils, depending on the type of surgery you are having. The surgical team will then discuss your procedure with you and ask you to sign a consent form.

Your time slot for the procedure will either be 07.30, 11.30 or 15.30. Please note that your time slot is not the time you will have your operation – your operation can happen any time after that. For example, if you have been asked to come in at 07.30 it means that you are on the morning list which runs from 08.20-13.00, so you could be going to theatre at any time within these hours. The afternoon list runs from 13.00-17.00 and the evening list runs from 17.00-20.00.

You can expect to stay in the hospital up to 4-6 hours from the time you arrive.

We will keep you informed of any delays while you wait. Some operations may take longer than expected which is why we cannot give you an exact time for your surgery.

### **Arriving in theatre**

We will escort you to the theatre located on the fourth floor. The operating theatre staff will introduce themselves to you before beginning your operation.

### **Recovery**

If you had general anaesthetic you will need to stay in the recovery area for up to one hour before we take you back to the Alex Cross ward. The ward nurses will monitor you until you have fully recovered from the anaesthetic and will confirm that you are safe to go home.

Please make sure you have somebody to collect you after your operation who can stay with you for 24 hours after you have been discharged from hospital.

We will escort patients who had local anaesthetic back to the day care unit. The nurse will assess you, prepare you for discharge and contact your relative/friend so they can come and take you home. We will give you something to drink while you wait.

### **Going home**

A nurse will prepare you for discharge and give you your medications, if needed, and all the relevant information you need before you leave hospital.

### **Contacting the hospital**

If you have questions before your appointment, please contact the pre-assessment nurse on **020 3312 3230/3240** at Western Eye Hospital or **020 3311 0137** at Charing Cross Hospital between 09.00 and 17.00, Monday to Friday.

For further advice after your surgery, please contact Alex Cross ward on **020 3312 3327**. Out of hours, please call **020 3312 3227**.

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## How do I make a comment about my visit?

We aim to provide the best possible service and staff will be happy to answer any of the questions you may have. If you have any **suggestions** or **comments** about your visit, please either speak to a member of staff or contact the patient advice and liaison service (**PALS**) on **020 3313 0088** (Charing Cross, Hammersmith and Queen Charlotte's & Chelsea hospitals), or **020 3312 7777** (St Mary's and Western Eye hospitals). You can also email PALS at [imperial.pals@nhs.net](mailto:imperial.pals@nhs.net) The PALS team will listen to your concerns, suggestions or queries and is often able to help solve problems on your behalf.

Alternatively, you may wish to complain by contacting our complaints department:

Complaints department  
Fourth floor  
Salton House  
St Mary's Hospital  
Praed Street  
London W2 1NY

Email: [ICHC-tr.Complaints@nhs.net](mailto:ICHC-tr.Complaints@nhs.net)

Telephone: **020 3312 1337 / 1349**

## Alternative formats

This leaflet can be provided on request in large print or easy read, as a sound recording, in Braille or in alternative languages. Please email the communications team: [imperial.communications@nhs.net](mailto:imperial.communications@nhs.net)

## Wi-fi

Wi-fi is available at our Trust. For more information visit our website: [www.imperial.nhs.uk](http://www.imperial.nhs.uk)