

Surgical Admissions Lounge

This leaflet explains more about the Surgical Admissions Lounge. If you have any further questions, please speak to a doctor or nurse caring for you on the day.

What is the Surgical Admissions Lounge?

It is an area where the surgeon, anaesthetists and nursing team meet you to prepare you for surgery, ensure any medication is arranged pre-operation if needed, and explain what will happen on the day of your operation. You will be asked to sign a consent form for your surgery. They will answer your questions about any aspect of your operation. For some types of surgery, the surgeon or clinical nurse specialist may make a mark on your skin. A nurse will apply your name band, which will be checked at various stages. The Lounge is open from 7am - 8pm.

What happens before surgery?

Most patients will change into a gown. A nurse will let you know when to change and provide you with a dressing gown, disposable grip socks and elastic stockings, which help prevent blood clots forming. Nurses will accompany you to a cubicle and help you change if needed.

A nurse will take your blood pressure and ask you some questions. We may ask you the same questions more than once, as part of our safety processes.

We ask most patients to walk from the Lounge to the theatres, accompanied by a nurse. We will take you there on a chair if you are unable to walk.

In some instances, you will be taken to a bed in a ward before your operation, and then into the operating theatre from the ward.

When should I arrive?

The specialty team would contact you in advance to tell you when to arrive. Please report to the Lounge reception when on arrival. If you are asked to arrive at 7am, your operation will be scheduled to take place before 12.30pm. If you are asked to arrive at 11am, your operation will be scheduled before 8pm. If you arrive before 7am, please wait in the main hospital reception area until the Lounge is open.

How long will I be waiting in the Lounge?

Please expect to wait between one and four hours. Your surgeon will try to give you an approximate time for your operation when they meet you. Sometimes, due to operations taking longer than expected, or emergency situations, patients' waiting times are affected. Please ask us at any time for an update on your waiting time. Once you have changed into a gown, you will be around 30 minutes from going into the theatre. If you wish to leave the Lounge while waiting, please discuss it first with a nurse.

Is my operation likely to be cancelled?

Sometimes unanticipated events mean we must cancel operations at the last minute. This could be because our theatres and beds are taken up in an emergency; an operation takes longer than planned; or the surgeon or anaesthetist decides you are not medically fit for the operation. If your operation is cancelled, we will contact you and offer you a new date within 28 days.

Can a relative or friend accompany me?

We ask that patients are accompanied by only one friend or relative. There is limited seating space in the Lounge and at very busy times we may have to ask friends or relatives to leave once you are settled. It is not an appropriate environment for babies or young children, so please make alternative arrangements where possible. We ask that friends and relatives do not eat or drink in the lounge in consideration of patients who are fasting while awaiting surgery.

What facilities are there in the Lounge?

There are toilets including accessible toilet. We have single sex changing areas. There are no refreshments facilities in the Lounge. There are a range of catering outlets and facilities such as shops and cash machines throughout the main site at St George's.

Fasting before your operation

Please follow the instructions sent to you separately with the appointment letter about how long before your operation you should go without food and water. If you have not received fasting information, please contact the admissions team. Please do not drink anything in the Surgical Admissions Lounge until a doctor or nurse tells you when you can have your final drink of water before surgery.

What happens to my possessions during my operation?

We will label and store your possessions. We will take them to your ward if you are staying in a bed, or hand them over to you after your operation if you are going home on the same day. Please do not bring more than one small bag. Please do not bring any valuable items or large sums of money into the hospital.

What happens after my operation?

If you are staying in a bed, you will be taken to your allocated ward. We will give the ward details to your nominated relative or friend, and we will give them contact numbers to get in touch with us to find out if you are on the ward. If the bed is not immediately ready, we will contact the relative or friend you have nominated to keep them updated. Some patients will be able to go home on the same day and will recover in a dedicated area in the Lounge.

For more information leaflets on conditions, procedures, treatments and services offered at our hospitals, please visit www.stgeorges.nhs.uk

Additional services

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

PALS can offer you on-the-spot advice and information when you have comments or concerns about our services or the care you have received. You can visit the PALS office between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday in the main corridor between Grosvenor and Lanesborough Wing (near the lift foyer). **Tel:** 020 8725 2453 **Email:** pals@stgeorges.nhs.uk

NHS Choices

NHS Choices provides online information and guidance on all aspects of health and healthcare, to help you make decisions about your health. **Website:** www.nhs.uk

NHS 111

You can call 111 when you need medical help fast but it's not a 999 emergency, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Calls are free from landlines and mobile phones. **Tel:** 111