

Coming in for checks – a ‘pre-operative assessment’

If you are going into hospital for an operation, you will probably have to come in a few days or weeks before your operation for a ‘pre-op’ assessment.



This leaflet will tell you all about what will happen at this appointment.



When you arrive at the pre-op unit, the person on reception will check your name and address and then will ask you to sit and wait to see the nurse.



Pre-operative assessment – Easy Read

All the staff in the hospital wear a name badge and when they speak to you, they should always tell you their name.



A nurse will then call you in to a room. She will ask you a lot of questions about your health.

She will also check your blood pressure. This is done by putting a band on your arm which becomes very tight.

It will feel strange but will not hurt you and will only last a few seconds.



The nurse will also weigh you and may measure your height.



The nurse will ask you to have a blood test.

She will ask you to roll up your sleeve and will tie a tight strap on the top of your arm so she can see your vein.



Pre-operative assessment – Easy Read

She will put a needle into your arm – you will feel a sharp scratch but it will not last long.

Your blood is collected in small tubes which are sent away to be tested.



You might also be asked for a urine sample – you will need to pee into a small pot.



All people coming for operations have to be tested to see if they have germs on their skins.

The nurse will use a thing like a long cotton wool bud to wipe inside your nose and mouth.

It may tickle but will not hurt and will only take a few seconds.



A doctor may also come and see you at this appointment and will explain the operation to you.

He or she will probably ask you and your carer some questions and will ask you if you have any questions for him or her.



Pre-operative assessment – Easy Read

When the nurse and doctor have all the information about you that they need, you will be able to leave.



If your checks are ok, your operation can go ahead.

Sometimes, you will need to take tablets or use a special skin wash or skin cream for a few days before you can have the operation.

Your pre-op nurse will tell you if this is needed.



If you or your carer needs help while you are in the hospital, ask one of the nurses to either call the Learning Disability Liaison Nurse on ext 8159 or on mobile number 07879 425 803 or Patient Relations on 8338.



More information for people with learning disabilities and their carers can be found on the Trust website at: www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk



Also available in this series:

- Getting help in hospital
- Going into hospital
- Going to the Acute Medical Unit (AMU)
- Going to the Emergency Department (A&E)
- Having a blood test
- Having a general anaesthetic
- Having a scan
- Having an x-ray
- Washing your hands



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