

Who we are

- Dr Elizabeth Castañeda – Elderly Care Consultant
- Dr Victoria Green – Elderly Care Consultant
- An Elderly Care Registrar – senior doctor training in the specialist medical care of older people
- Sadek Alam – Physician Associate
- Sam Warrior – Physician Associate

How to contact us (for patients already referred to the service)

For POPS clinic appointments:

Telephone the Clinical Admin Team (CAT 10): 0118 322 5474 or email Karen Graham at

karen.graham@royalberkshire.nhs.uk



The Surgical Liaison Service

Information for patients, relatives and carers

To find out more about our Trust, visit www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk

Please ask if you need this information in another language or format.

Surgical Liaison Service Team, RBFT Elderly Care, July 2025
Next review due: July 2027

This leaflet explains how the Surgical Liaison Service can help you or your relative to best prepare for an operation.

What we do

We are a team of elderly care specialists who work alongside the various surgical teams across the hospital. We can provide comprehensive medical advice to patients over the age of 65, and their families, to support them during their hospital admission under the surgical team. As many older patients have complex, underlying medical problems, we will carry out a comprehensive geriatric assessment (CGA). The CGA is used to evaluate and manage the individual's multiple issues that may affect an older adult's health, in order to improve the outcome of surgery.

Referrals are made to our service by a hospital specialist, who has identified that the patient would benefit from a holistic approach to upcoming surgery.

The Surgical Liaison Service mainly supports the general surgical teams (upper gastrointestinal and colorectal surgery), but we also review patients with a referral from other surgical specialist teams, such as urology, ENT, breast surgery and gynaecology.

The team also looks after vascular patients who have been transferred to Emmer Green Ward from other hospitals. These are patients with conditions relating to circulation or blood vessels and who may have already had a vascular procedure.

POPS outpatient clinic

The Perioperative medicine for Older People undergoing Surgery (POPS) outpatient service aims to best prepare our patients for elective (planned) surgery. This involves a review by a senior elderly care doctor, who will make sure that patients are as medically fit for surgery as possible. This may involve adjusting medications and arranging blood transfusions or iron infusion therapy.

The team will use a clinical frailty score along with the CGA to decide when and whether the patient is fit for surgery.

During the surgical admission

Once they are on the ward, our patients will get a visit from the physiotherapy and occupational therapy teams to assess mobility, balance and frailty. The therapy teams help with rehabilitation after surgery and can advise if a patient will need further rehabilitation at a local community hospital or additional support at home.

Communication with patients and their relatives is key to our service, as it helps everyone to have a clear understanding of the patient's treatment and discharge plans.

The team also provides training for ward resident doctors and nursing staff on relevant topics such as dementia, delirium, frailty, falls and Parkinson's disease.