

### **Department of Clinical Neurosciences (DCN)**

Western General Hospital

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This leaflet tells you what will happen when you come for your visit to the clinic before a planned operation in the department.

### **What do I need to do before my pre-admission clinic (PAC) appointment?**

If you are taking any anticoagulants (blood thinners) or non steroidal anti-inflammatory medications please phone: 0131 537 2093 as soon as possible before your pre-admission clinic (PAC) visit. Please leave a message and someone will get back to you. Please bring any medications you are taking, in the original packaging. Please also bring a urine sample from the morning of your PAC appointment.

### **Why do I need to attend the pre-admission clinic (PAC)?**

Coming to this clinic is important before your stay in hospital because:

1. You will meet the pre-admission nurse and talk to them about coming into hospital.
2. It means we can check that you are fit for an operation.
3. It means we can check that your records are up-to-date.

If your condition has changed recently please tell the pre admission nurse at the clinic.

### **How long will the appointment last for?**

Usually this visit takes about **four** hours. If you have brought a relative or friend with you, they may wish to come back later. Sometimes the doctor may request tests that need to be arranged at short notice. This may mean your visit will be slightly longer than four hours. If you are diabetic please bring a snack with you.

## **Which staff will I see at the PAC?**

During your clinic visit you will meet with some, or all, of the following members of the team:

**Nursing Staff** – the pre-admission nursing team. They will do the following:

1. Complete a nursing assessment and update your records.
2. Do blood tests and an ECG (heart tracing) if needed.
3. Arrange any other investigations or assessments, if needed.
4. Answer any questions you may have about your hospital admission.

**Junior Medical staff** – these are the doctors who work on the ward. They will go through your medical history, do a physical examination and will prescribe your medicines during your hospital stay

**Anaesthetist** – this is the doctor who gives you your anaesthetic during your operation if you have had any problems with an anaesthetic in the past, you must tell someone at the pre-admission clinic. You will be given a booklet about your anaesthetic.

**Physiotherapist** – If you are having back surgery you will be given a physiotherapy booklet and a copy of the exercise programme to start before your operation. If you are having back surgery please view the post operative video on line at [www.msn-neuro.scot.nhs.uk](http://www.msn-neuro.scot.nhs.uk)

**Neurosurgical consultant** – You may have the chance to discuss your surgery with the consultant and sign a consent form. This would be the best opportunity to ask any questions that you may have. It is also a good time to ask about issues such as returning to work, driving, golf and other sports. If you do not see the consultant at the PAC, you will see him/ her on the day of surgery.

**Students** – Because this is a teaching hospital students may be on placement in the department as part of their training. If you do not want them to be there while you are being examined, please speak to a member of staff.

## **What are the main tests carried out at PAC?**

**Blood samples** – samples are taken before your surgery.

**Urinalysis** – the sample of urine you have been asked to bring with you will be checked for any sign of infection or diabetes.

**Baseline observations** – your temperature, pulse and blood pressure will be checked to make sure they are normal

**Electrocardiograph (ECG)** – this is a painless test, which measures the electrical activity of the heart.

**Other tests** – a member of staff will give you details about other tests the surgical team may need before you come into hospital.

## **What happens on the day of surgery? (DOSA)**

The date and time of your admission will usually be confirmed at your pre-admission appointment.

For patients admitted on the Day Of Surgery (DOSA) please go to Ward 31 – Room J

## **Keeping your appointment**

If you cannot keep your appointment, or have been given one that is unsuitable, please call the waiting list office on **0131 537 2422**. Your call will give someone else the chance to be seen and will help us keep waiting times to a minimum.

## **Patient Transport**

Patient Transport will only be made available for patients whose medical condition means they cannot travel in any other way. To book Patient Transport the patient must call 0300 123 1236 (calls charged at local rate) up to 28 days in advance, making sure you have your CHI number available (find this on your appointment letter). Hard of hearing or speech impaired? Use text relay: **18001-0300 123 1236\*** (calls charged at local rate). To cancel patient transport, telephone: 0800 389 1333 (free phone 24 hr answer service).

## **Public transport and travel information**

Bus details available from: Lothian Buses on 0131 555 6363 [www.lothianbuses.co.uk](http://www.lothianbuses.co.uk)  
Traveline Scotland on 08712002233 or [www.travelinescotland.com](http://www.travelinescotland.com)

Train details available from: National Rail Enquiries on 03457 484 950 or [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk)

## **Parking**

Parking is available at the hospital, including some disabled bays. However, parking spaces are very limited and it would be better to use public transport to get to your pre-admission appointment or get someone to drop you off and pick you up afterwards.

## **Interpretation and Translation**

Your GP will inform us of any interpreting requirements you have before you come to hospital and we will provide an appropriate interpreter.

This leaflet may be made available in a larger print, Braille or your community language.

Thank you for attending our pre-admission clinic. We are always trying to improve our service, so please let us know your comments or suggestions on the clinic and this information leaflet.