

# Awaiting your hand surgery

Your consultant: \_\_\_\_\_ Your hospital number: \_\_\_\_\_

As you know, your name has been placed on the Hand Surgery Waiting List. Please let us know immediately of any **change of address, telephone number(s)** or any known **holiday dates**.

Although your hand surgery may be of a minor nature, you will still be admitted to a Day Case Unit and taken to theatre for the procedure to be performed. When you get your date for surgery, please let us know straight away if you are unable to come in or no longer wish to have surgery, so that we can offer the appointment to another patient.

Please note that **you will not be able to drive yourself home following hand surgery - you should organise for someone to collect you.**

It is essential that you inform us, as soon as possible, of any other medical condition (e.g. if you are diabetic, or have heart trouble) and if you are on any form of medication, especially blood thinning medication.

It would also be helpful if you could advise us in advance if you live alone or if you are the prime carer of an elderly or disabled partner or relative at home and will therefore need to organise additional support for a while after your operation.

Many patients are now pre-clerked (i.e. checked by the nurse in the outpatient clinic or a telephone consultation) approximately 2 weeks before surgery. This is to ensure that any necessary tests and checks can be made before the operation. It also gives you the opportunity to ask any questions that you may have. A face to face pre-clerking visit lasts about 1 hour depending on whether tests such as x-ray and ECG need to be performed.

## **On the day of surgery**

If you are scheduled to have surgery performed as a day case, you may be asked to arrive by 7.30am to 8am or later in the day 11.30am to 12pm (if you have a long distance to travel, a later admission time may be possible - please contact your consultant's secretary about this).

It is important to remove any rings, gel nails and nail varnish from your hand before surgery. Please also ensure that your hands and nails are as clean as possible.

We run all day operating lists and it is very difficult to predict in advance exactly what time you will be taken across to the theatre. This is because we incorporate some emergency cases into our lists and also it is often difficult to know in advance exactly how long a procedure may take, as there can sometimes be unexpected difficulties.

The order of the operating list is done on the day and the ward staff or medical staff will be able to tell you where you are on the list but, for the above reasons, this can only be an approximation. The ward staff will keep you informed of progress or any major change to the list.

Depending on your admission time, you may be ready to go home from the afternoon onwards. Very occasionally some patients may need to stay in for one night following surgery.

Your hand will be bandaged after your surgery, and you will be instructed about how to manage with your bandage until the stitches are removed. Your stitches will be removed between 10 to 14 days following surgery.

### **Waiting times**

The waiting times given can only be approximate as many factors can affect the length of wait. We usually try to give at least 2 weeks' notice of admission. This may be shorter if we get a cancellation, which we then try to replace at short notice.

If you are happy to be called at short notice, please let us know with daytime and evening telephone contact numbers.

#### **PLEASE HELP US TO REDUCE THE TIME YOU WAIT**

By keeping us informed of any changes to your circumstances, we will know where to contact you and endeavour to only offer you a date when you are available.

If you inform us if you cannot attend we can ensure that the appointment time is not wasted.

Please be aware that repeated cancellations or a non-attendance would result in you being removed from the waiting list.

Thank you for supporting our efforts to reduce your waiting time.

### **If you have any queries please telephone your consultant's secretary on the relevant number below:**

Mr Arenas-Prat's secretary (Associate Specialist)	(01332) 785254
Mr Armstrong's secretary	(01332) 788077
Miss Arrowsmith's secretary	(01332) 783390
Prof Bainbridge's secretary	(01332) 785252
Miss Brown's secretary	(01332) 783389
Mr Cresswell's secretary	(01332) 785252
Mr Heras-Palou's secretary	(01332) 783388
Miss Horton's secretary	(01332) 783387
Mr Johnson's secretary	(01332) 787295
Prof Lindau's secretary	(01332) 783389
Miss H Morris' secretary	(01332) 785254
Miss O'Brien's secretary	(01332) 783388
Mr Russell's secretary	(01332) 785253

Call 111 for non-emergency confidential health care advice and information,  
24 hours a day.

Call 111 when it's less urgent than 999.