

**INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS WHEN ADDED TO
THE ORTHOPAEDIC WAITING LIST FOR
ELECTIVE (NON EMERGENCY) SURGERY**



Date: _____

Name: _____

Hospital No: _____

Following your outpatient attendance with the consultant surgeon, _____ your name has been placed on the inpatient/ daycase waiting list for orthopaedic surgery.

In order to ensure that you are available for treatment and medically fit to proceed without undue delay **please complete and return the attached pre-screening questionnaire to the nursing staff BEFORE you leave the clinic.**

In an effort to treat you with the minimal waiting time, you should be aware that it may be necessary to transfer your care to another surgeon, or to an independent healthcare provider who is working with the Trust.

It is important that you advise us that you no longer require to remain on the waiting list for surgery. This can be due to any of the following:



- You find you are no longer experiencing any signs or symptoms of your original problem.
- You have developed other health issues which mean you no longer can or wish to proceed with surgery.
- You have chosen to have your surgery carried out privately.
- You have chosen to have your surgery using the EU Directive to allow treatment in another EU country with re-imburement from the Health and Social Care Board. Contact details for EU Directive are Email: **NationalContactPoint@hscni.net** or Tel: **028 95363152**.
- You have simply decided not to proceed with surgery.



IF YOU REQUIRE TO BE REMOVED FROM THE WAITING
LIST PLEASE CONTACT YOUR CONSULTANTS
SECRETARY REGARDING THIS ASAP

Altnagelvin Hospital telephone number:

028 71345171

Please also read the information on the next few pages with regards to our expectations of you while you are on the waiting list for surgery and some information regarding access times for surgery.

We also have written information available for patients regarding the most common planned procedures. If you have not received this today, please ask a member of staff before you leave the clinic. Alternatively you can get this information on the Trauma & Orthopaedic section of the Western Trust's website www.westerntrust.hscni.net/services/2492.htm or the NHS choices webpage on <http://www.nhs.uk/conditions>.



HOW YOU CAN HELP WHILE YOU AWAIT ELECTIVE ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY

If your personal information changes from the time you are at the outpatient clinic, such as your name, address, telephone numbers please contact your consultant's secretary to update them.



If there are dates that you will be unavailable for surgery such as going abroad or due to other commitments for a period, please let your consultant's secretary know.

If you commence new medications following completion of your healthcare questionnaire, especially blood thinners, contraceptive pills, Hormone Replacement Therapy, Anti-TNF medications, contact the Orthopaedic Pre-Assessment team to let them update your record (**Tel: 028 71296228**) failure to do this may result in a delay or cancellation of your procedure.





It is important that you do not have any infections when you are admitted for Orthopaedic surgery. If you develop any infections such as MRSA, C.Difficile, open wounds or ulcers you should also inform the Pre-Assessment team. If you are to have Orthopaedic surgery involving an implant, you should ensure you maintain good dental care and see your dentist regularly.

We aim to promote a healthy lifestyle prior to surgery to help reduce certain risk factors associated with surgery and anaesthetic. We advise that if you smoke, you should seek advice regarding stopping smoking at your local pharmacy or GP. There are free services available in community to help you stop smoking **(Tel: 0800 9179388)**.



There are higher surgical and anaesthetic risks if you are overweight (BMI greater than 30). If you fall into this category, it would be beneficial for you to aim to lose weight prior to surgery by following a healthy diet and keeping active. If you drink more than 14 units of alcohol per week or are drinking alcohol daily, there are increased risk factors for surgery. Please ask your GP for advice or additionally, for further information on any of the above lifestyle issues, there are websites such as

www.publichealth.hscni.net



INFORMATION ON ELECTIVE WAITING TIMES AFTER YOU ARE PLACED ON THE WAITING LIST FOR INPATIENT OR DAYCASE SURGERY IN ORTHOPAEDICS



The Western Health and Social Care Trust Orthopaedic service receives many queries from patients awaiting surgery regarding their possible date for treatment. At the moment access times (the length of time patients wait when they have been referred to be seen or have had a decision for surgery/investigation) have been affected due to:

- The resources needed to see and treat patients are not sufficient to meet the demand from referrals in a number of key specialties, including orthopaedics. This is due to the constrained funding within the Health and Social Care system, which is not at this time sufficient to allow us to treat all patients referred to the Trust.





- A number of services in the Trust have been affected by workforce issues such as sickness, high levels of maternity leave or posts which have been difficult or expensive to fill. The Trust needs to live within its budget and is required to control expenditure in such situations. This means that some posts will not be covered and this can affect access to some services.

 - Demand for unscheduled admissions – trauma and emergencies. As the trauma and orthopaedic service is an integrated service using the same resources of surgeons, nurses, allied health professionals and also theatres and wards, there can be occasions during peaks in trauma (emergency) admissions that mean elective surgery will be postponed at short notice. On occasions high numbers of admissions in other specialities may also affect bed availability at short notice. Staff will endeavour to inform you of this situation as soon as they can.
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Patients who have suspect cancer and those identified as clinically urgent continue to be treated first. However, this means that routine patients will wait longer than we would like and the waiting times for routine patients are significant.

Staff continue to make the best use of constrained resources. Administrative and clerical staff such as consultant secretaries cannot change your waiting time and follow guidelines set down by the HSC to manage waiting lists chronologically (in date order) based on the patients clinical priority as indicated by the consultant.



Addressing queries regarding waiting times can use considerable staff time and resource and you are advised that your GP is regularly informed of current waiting times for various specialities should you require further information. The service also will detail the waiting times on the Trust website, a shortcut to the link is www.westerntrust.hscni.net/services/2492.htm

