

May I leave the ward whilst I am waiting?

If you are postponed overnight, it may be possible for you to go home and return in the morning. However, it is best to be available on the ward, because the staff will try to fit your operation in whenever they can. If you must leave the ward, please tell the nursing staff.

Please **do not** leave the ward between 8:00am and 9:00am when the doctors come to do their ward rounds.

Please be patient with the staff. We understand your frustration if your operation is delayed, and are doing our best to get your operation arranged as soon as possible.

If you have any questions, please contact the nurse looking after you.

This leaflet can be made available in alternative languages/formats on request.

Plastic Surgery Trauma Unit

Trauma Unit: 0151 430 1642
Ward 3A: 0151 430 1520

**Information
before your
operation**

**Patient Information
Leaflet**

**Whiston Hospital
Warrington Road
Prescot L35 5DR**

Welcome to the Plastic Surgery Department

You have been admitted into the care of the Plastic Surgery Department.

Why plastic surgery?

The plastic surgery department is responsible for repairing difficult and complex wounds, particularly on the hand and face. While we are always careful to produce as good a cosmetic result as possible, it is not our first concern.

What happens now?

Your name has been added to the waiting list for emergency surgery – this is known as the Trauma List. You will either be admitted to 3A, our main ward, or remain within the Trauma Area.

Can I eat and drink?

The doctor admitting you or the ward nurse will tell you. If you need a general anaesthetic (GA), you should not eat or drink anything until you have had your surgery. Usually, there needs to be a six-hour gap between the last time you ate anything and the time of surgery. If your operation is under local anaesthetic (LA), you will be awake during your surgery and you can eat and drink as normal.

When will I get my operation?

We will do our best to ensure that your operation takes place as soon as possible. However, there are a number of things which can cause delay.

Emergency surgery takes place all day every day. The operating theatre is shared with other specialties:

- General surgery
- Orthopaedic surgery....

during the following times:

- After 5pm
- At weekends
- Sometimes during the week

Usually, there are a number of patients waiting for surgery; this means that your name is in a queue with patients from these specialties, who may not be waiting on our ward.

Patients are taken to theatre in order of clinical urgency. Therefore, if someone is admitted after you, but with a more serious condition, they may have their operation before you do.

If you need a general anaesthetic and the anaesthetist is called away, it may be possible for the surgeon to do a case under local anaesthetic; even though you may have been waiting longer.

After 5pm and at weekends, there is only one plastic surgeon available to do the operating and they cover both Whiston and Alder Hey Hospitals, and sometimes will be called away.

This means that there may be a delay before your operation can be carried out. This should not affect the outcome of your operation.

How long will I have to wait if there is a delay?

The list is constantly changing as new patients are admitted, and so it is not always possible to predict if there will be a delay, or how long a delay might be.

Continued overleaf