



Lifelong Health & Care



Consultant: _____

Admission

Date: _____ Time: _____

Please ensure that you read this booklet and bring it with you to your appointment.

Jan 2004

**Welcome to
The Elective Surgical Unit
Ward 9**

Welcome to Lagan Valley Hospital

Welcome to Down Lisburn Trust and the Lagan Valley Hospital, we hope your stay with us and your experience of our Services will be pleasant and comfortable.

We, in the Elective Surgical Unit (ESU) are particularly proud of our new Service. The ward has been commissioned as a direct initiative of the Department of Health actively attempting to reduce the number of patients waiting for surgery within the catchment area of the EHSSB.

The Service provided by the Unit meets both the needs of day and short stay surgical patients. It ensures that all patients are cared for by a professionally highly skilled and committed team comprising not only of doctors, nurses, physiotherapists etc. but also the services of a dedicated administrative staff.

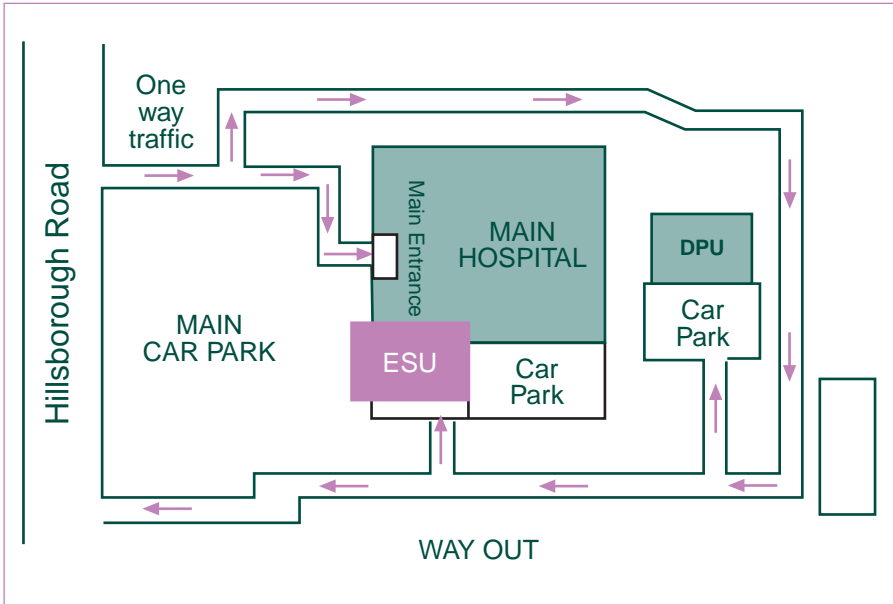
If you are unable to attend for your appointment, you **MUST** contact the ward so that your theatre time may be allocated to another patient. We will then endeavour to re-arrange a date to best suit you.

Please speak with any member of staff if you have any concerns regarding any aspects of the services we provide.

You may contact the E.S.U. by telephoning 028 9266 5141 ext. 2395/2396.



How to find us



Important Information

Before you attend for your appointment, please pay special attention to the following points:

1. If you are having a general anaesthetic, **you MUST NOT eat** anything 6 hours before your appointment. You may drink sips of water up to 2 hours before your appointment.
2. If you are on **medication**, **you MUST continue** to take it as instructed prior to your appointment.

Please contact ward if you are unsure as to whether or not to continue with or suspend medication until after surgery.

Please bring either a list of current medication or the actual medication itself.

3. If you have a **cough/cold/chest infection** **you MUST contact** the E.S.U. prior to your appointment.
4. To facilitate your discharge **you MUST arrange** for somebody to be immediately available to collect you once you are ready to be discharged. This person can be contacted by a member of staff.
5. Having undergone surgery **you MUST have available**, someone to look after and care for you for at least 24 hours.

If the above are not followed, your operation may be delayed, or even cancelled.

Be Prepared, What to Bring with you

- Please bath or shower before you leave home that day and shave the area of the operation if we have told you to.
- Please keep make up to a minimum or bring make up remover with you as you cannot wear nail varnish or make up in the operating theatre.
- Please ensure that you leave all jewellery at home as you are unable to wear any jewellery into the theatre, other than a wedding ring.
- Please bring spectacles if worn and a case as contact lenses cannot be worn in theatre.

Please **DO NOT** bring any money, bank/credit cards, jewellery or any other valuables as there are no facilities within the unit to hold them securely.

Down Lisburn Trust cannot accept liability for any loss sustained.

On Arrival ...

- Please give your name to the nurse or receptionist, who will then contact the nurse in charge of your care.
- We will then check your admission details to see if anything has changed since you last attended the hospital.
- You will then meet the doctor and the anaesthetist to discuss your operation and will be asked to change into a theatre gown and your dressing gown.
- We would request that your relative/carer returns to collect you following your operation, as opposed to waiting. This person will be contacted by the nursing staff following your operation.
- However, a parent/guardian needs to stay with their child.

Following your operation ...

- You will wake up in the recovery room. When ready, you will be transported back to the main ward.
- Soon after your operation you will be offered tea and toast and where appropriate you will be moved into an 'easy chair' to facilitate your recovery.

Going Home ...

If your operation is in the morning, then you should expect to be discharged later on that morning or early afternoon.

If your appointment is in the afternoon, then you will be discharged later that afternoon or early evening.

There may be occasions when you will be required to stay overnight to aid your recovery. Advice and information will be given either at preassessment or following your surgery.

Before you go home you may (if appropriate) be visited by your surgeon/anaesthetist to discuss your operation. Otherwise nursing staff will provide you with all the necessary information regarding your discharge home.

Please feel free to ask as many questions as you wish. We want you to feel re-assured about your operation and discharge.

Following your discharge you **MUST** take it easy. Therefore please make adequate arrangements so that you can rest.

For 24 hours following discharge - **YOU MUST NOT**

- X** Operate machinery - this includes domestic kitchen appliances
- X** Drive a car
- X** Drink alcohol
- X** Take important decisions or sign any legal documents.
- X** Take medication other than those prescribed by the hospital or your GP

All patients discharged from E.S.U. will receive a follow-up telephone call to allow the discussion of any fears or concerns.

Meantime if any patient has any concerns regarding their surgery or aftercare, they are welcome to contact:

The Elective Surgical Unit. Tel: 028 9266 5141 ext 2395/2396
or if the E.S.U. is closed please contact
Ward 2 Surgery Tel: 028 9266 5141 ext 2143/2144
or Accident & Emergency Tel: 028 9266 5141 3 ext 2004

Suggestions

We hope that you will have been happy with the care you have received at Lagan Valley Hospital. Although if you are unhappy with any aspect of your care or treatment, or have any suggestions as to how we could improve our service, please tell us. Any complaint that cannot be resolved on the spot, should be put in writing to:

Paul McBrearty
Director of Corporate Affairs
Level 5
Lisburn Health Centre
Linenhall Street
Lisburn
BT28 1LU

or telephone: 028 9266 5181 ext 4537 or 028 9250 1303

or e-mail: paul_mcbrearty@dltrust.n-i.nhs.uk

