

Having Day Surgery

Patient information - Christchurch Hospital

The Day Surgery Unit (DSU) is located on the first floor of the Christchurch Women's Hospital. DSU specialises in the care and support of men, women and children having day surgery. Our aim is to make your stay as comfortable as possible.

You will be admitted to either DSU or Day of Surgery Admission (DOSA). Patients admitted to DOSA will be cared for post-operatively in the DSU.

Preparing for your operation

- Please refer to your admission letter for instructions relating to eating and drinking
- You must have a responsible adult to accompany you home and stay with you for at least 24 hours following your operation
- A child under the age of 16 must be accompanied by a responsible adult who can stay with the child during their hospital stay and for 24 hours after the operation
- Patients with intellectual impairments must be accompanied by a responsible adult
- If you develop a cold, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhoea, or other illnesses near your planned surgery date, please contact the DSU on (03) 364 4034 for advice and leave a message if after hours

The day of your operation

- Shower or bathe before coming into hospital
- Remove all jewellery, piercings, nail varnish and wear as little make up as possible

Medication

- Take all normal medications on the morning of your operation with a small amount of water, unless advised not to by a health professional.
- DO NOT take your medication if it is for thinning the blood, removing excess fluid or diabetes unless instructed by a health professional. If in doubt, please contact the DSU on the above telephone number.

PLEASE NOTE that your admission time is not the time of your operation. We will do our best to ensure you have your operation at the planned time; however this may change due to urgent patients having priority.

What to bring

- Your current medications in the original packaging, along with a printed list of these medications given to you by your GP or pharmacy
- Glasses, hearing aids, dentures or mobility aids if you have them
- PLEASE DO NOT bring any valuables or money with you. DSU will not accept any responsibility for loss of personal property
- Wear loose fitting, comfortable clothing you can easily change into afterwards
- Parents, please bring your child's favourite toy and a change of clothing

On admission

- You will have a nurse assigned to care for you and prepare you for your operation and subsequent discharge.
- You will be seen by an Anaesthetist, and your Consultant or Registrar if consent for your operation has not been completed.

After your operation

- You will wake up in the Post Anaesthetic Care Unit (PACU) where you will be

- monitored regularly.
- Once awake and comfortable you will return to the Stepdown area of the DSU. You may return directly here if having Local Anaesthetic only
- You will be provided with a light meal and your nurse will continue to monitor you until you are ready to be discharged home

Discharge

When your condition is satisfactory you will be prepared for discharge. Your nurse will provide you with:

- A discharge summary
- Written information specific to your operation
- A take home medication pack or prescription for medication, if required.
- A follow up appointment/plan
- Any special instructions or dressings you may require
- Answers to any questions you may have before leaving hospital

If you are not well enough to go home, you may have to transfer to an inpatient ward in the hospital for an overnight stay.

PLEASE NOTE THAT FOR THE FIRST 24 HOURS AFTER YOUR GENERAL ANAESTHETIC YOU MUST NOT

- Drive a motor vehicle
- Operate machinery
- Engage in activities requiring skill or judgement
- Drink alcohol
- Sign legal documents

Parking

Please allow adequate time for parking, or ask a friend/family member to drop you off.

Other information

- All CDHB buildings are smoke free
- ATMs are located in main foyer of Christchurch Women's Hospital and Christchurch Hospital
- WI FI is available throughout the CDHB campus
- A choice of cafes are available throughout the CDHB campus.

Compliments and complaints

Please complete a feedback form available from the blue boxes throughout the hospital or visit www.cdhb.health.nz

Day Surgery Unit (DSU),
1st Floor,
Christchurch Women's Hospital,
Riccarton Avenue
Phone: (03) 364 4034, Hours: 7.00 am to 9.00 pm

For more information about:

- your health and medication, go to www.healthinfo.org.nz
- hospital and specialist services, go to www.cdhb.health.nz
- parking, go to www.cdhb.health.nz/parking