

Plastic Surgery Clinical Appointment

Minor Surgery

Patient information - Minor Surgery Unit

Welcome to the Minor Surgery Unit

The information contained in this pamphlet will explain what you need to know about your outpatient appointment.

What do I bring / prepare for?

- Your clinic appointment letter from the hospital.
- A list of all current medications you are taking with the dosages and times you are taking them. **Please continue to take all your medication prior to your procedure.**
- **If you are taking warfarin, liaise with your GP/Practice Nurse so that a blood test can be arranged for the day prior to your procedure to check your INR. Please ask your GP to fax the INR result to 387 1326**
- If you are on other blood thinning medications such as aspirin, clopidogrel, dipyridamole, dabigatran, or clexane **do not stop taking these medications.**
- If you have any questions discuss or consult with your GP / Practice Nurse.
- Results of any relevant tests / investigations you have had prior to the appointment.
- Please wear comfortable clothing that allows easy access for assessment and treatment.
- If you require the services of an interpreter **please phone 387 1327 as soon as you receive notification of this appointment** so that an interpreter can be arranged.
- Please bring a relative / whanau / support person with you who is able to take you home.
- There is water available in the patients discharge lounge. Otherwise, tea, coffee and /or food can be purchased at the hospital cafeteria.

Where do I report for my appointment?

Please follow hospital signage to Minor Surgery.

What will happen at this appointment?

- The Receptionist will welcome you, check your personal details are correct and show you to the waiting room.
- A nurse will start your medical assessment before you see the Consultant and / or have the procedure (if you have already been assessed for treatment you will not need to see the Consultant first).
- If the Consultant decides the lesion needs to be removed under local anaesthetic, then you will usually be able have this done on the same day.
- If this is the case you may be asked to wait in the waiting room until a procedure room is ready.
- After your treatment you will wait in the discharge lounge for approximately 15 minutes and have your discharge information including care of your wound and follow-up explained to you.

How long will this appointment take?

This will depend on whether you need immediate treatment or not. Therefore please allow for up to 3 hours.

Can I drive home?

- We recommend that someone drives you to and from your appointment.
- You will not be able to drive yourself home if you are having a lesion removed from your neck, hands or near your eyes. Or if you are having a lesion on your leg removed that may require a skin graft.

Leg lesions

- If you are having a lesion removed from your leg that may also require a skin graft you will need to be prepared to keep your leg up at home most of the time for the next 5-7 days.

What about follow-up?

- The Doctor will advise you where to go to have your stitches removed and any dressings that may need changing prior to the stitches being removed. In **most cases** this can be done at your GP rooms.
- We will advise you if your wound care needs to be managed by our service and if so it will be done at Plastic Surgery Outpatients, 3rd Floor, Parkside, Christchurch Hospital.
- The laboratory examination of any specimens taken will be reviewed by the Plastic Surgeon and sent to your GP who will contact you with the results.

What will I do if I have any problems/concerns after my treatment?

- In the first instance please read the information you have been given about your procedure and after care.
- If necessary, please contact your GP or the after hours surgery – Please take the copy of the treatment summary with you.
- Your GP will refer you back to the service if required.
- In the event of an emergency dial 111.

**Minor Surgery
Burwood Hospital
Phone: 387 1327 Fax: 387 1326**

For more information about:

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