



**North Bristol**  
NHS Trust

Service:  
**General Surgery**

# Having urgent gallbladder surgery



*Exceptional healthcare, personally delivered*

## **Why am I having urgent surgery**

Your surgeon has found a problem with your gallbladder or the stones in it, and we now recommend where-ever possible that patients have an operation as soon as possible rather than waiting for several weeks, wherever possible.

## **Where do I go?**

When you are discharged from the ward or hot clinic, you will be sent to pre-op assessment (gate 36) before going home. On the day of your surgery should go to the level three theatres at gate 21 of Southmead Hospital.

## **Do I need to bring anything?**

Yes. Bring any paperwork given to you on discharge and a list of any medications that you take regularly. You may want to bring an overnight bag in case you are admitted.

## **What happens if my condition changes before my operation?**

If you feel more unwell before your appointment, please ring ward 32B on ext. 43233 and speak to the nurse in charge. They will arrange for you to be admitted to the ward as an emergency for review. An alternative number is the Hub on ext. 40700 who will also be able to arrange an admission.

If you feel completely better and no longer wish surgery, or can't attend on the date given, please contact the waiting list co-ordinator on ext. 48801 so that the theatre slot is not wasted.

If you are better, particularly if you have been given antibiotics, most people still require surgery to prevent problems with gallstones happening again in the future, so please do keep your appointment for the operation.

## What will happen on the day?

On arrival you will be checked in, and once ready will be called through to one of the medirooms to be prepared for theatre. You will see the anaesthetist who will be putting you to sleep for surgery and the surgeon who is operating on you who will further explain the operation to you and ask you to sign a consent form for surgery.

You will wait in the mediroom until it is your turn for surgery, and after the operation will return to the same mediroom to recover. Most patients (95%) will be discharged home from the medirooms after their operation, there is only a small chance you will need to be admitted.

Your surgeon will see you afterwards to explain how the operation went. There is not usually any clinic follow up after routine gall bladder surgery.

## What if I think there is a problem after my surgery?

If you think there is something seriously wrong within the first 48 hours after surgery please attend the A&E department of Southmead hospital, with your discharge paperwork from the operation

If there is a minor problem, particularly with one of your wounds, please make an urgent appointment to see you GP

If you are getting the symptoms coming back, or different symptoms after surgery, please make a routine appointment with your GP to consider further tests that might be needed, as these may not be related to gallstones or your operation.

## Further Information:

Please see our detailed having a gall-bladder operation booklet or visit:

<https://www.rcseng.ac.uk/library-and-publications/college-publications/docs/gall-bladder-removal/>

**PATIENT  
APPROVED** 

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**If you have any suggestions as to how we can improve this leaflet for future patients, please write to:**

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**[www.nbt.nhs.uk](http://www.nbt.nhs.uk)**

**If you or the individual you are caring for need support reading this leaflet please ask a member of staff for advice.**

© North Bristol NHS Trust. This edition published January 2019. Review due January 2021. NBT003084

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Southmead Hospital Charity raises funds for departments and wards throughout the Trust, meaning you can support an area close to your heart