



**North Bristol**  
NHS Trust

Service:  
**General Surgery**

# **Surgical Day Assessment Unit (SDAU)**



*Exceptional healthcare, personally delivered*



# Welcome to the Surgical Day Assessment Unit

## Why am I here?

Your GP or A&E has asked for you to be seen by the surgical team. Your condition does not need immediate admission to hospital but requires you to be seen in Unit within 24 - 48 hours.

## Where do I go?

You need to go to the Surgical Day Assessment Unit which is located on gate 36, level 1, Southmead Hospital at the time specified to you.

## Do I need to bring anything?

Bring any paperwork given to you by your GP / A&E and a list of any medications that you take regularly. You may want to bring an overnight bag in case you are admitted.

## Do I need to do anything in preparation for my appointment?

You may be booked to have a scan during your visit. Please check with your GP if you are having a scan and what type. If you are having a scan, then it is important to follow the instructions below:

- If your scan is looking for gallstones, you should not eat for four hours prior to your scan and only drink clear fluids (e.g. water). Please ask your doctor for more details regarding what fluids you are allowed to drink
- If you are having a scan of your pelvis, you need to have a full bladder. This means drinking 1 - 1.5 pints of non- fizzy fluid (preferably water) about 45 minutes before the test.

## What happens if my condition changes before my appointment?

If you feel more unwell before your appointment, please seek urgent medical help via NHS 111, your GP, a walk-in centre or A&E, if your condition warrants it.

They will be able to arrange for you to be admitted to the ward 32b (SAU) as an emergency admission for review by the teams more urgently. SDAU is an ambulatory ('walking unwell') unit and we cannot see patients brought in by ambulance or needing a trolley bed.

If you feel better and no longer wish to attend the Unit, please contact the Hub on ext. 40700 so that the appointment is not wasted.

## What will happen in SDAU?

On arrival, a healthcare assistant will take blood and urine samples. If you are having a scan, you will be directed to the imaging department which is located in the outpatient x-ray department on the same level.

The clinic is designed for patients who are able to walk to the department. If you are concerned this is not possible for you, please tell your doctor as you may not be suitable to be seen in our unit. After any scan you will walk back to the unit and wait to be seen by a surgical doctor.

You may be seen by a junior doctor first and then reviewed by a more senior surgical doctor.

It can take some time for the results to be processed and there can sometimes be a wait to see a senior doctor, especially at weekends when they may be busy dealing with surgical emergencies. You should therefore expect to be in the clinic for up to six hours.

## What will happen next?

If you are feeling better and the scan/bloods show no abnormality, you may be discharged back to your GP with no further hospital follow up.

If you have been seen in SDAU because of a problem with your bladder, you may have a procedure performed in clinic e.g. catheter insertion.

You may be given an appointment to be seen in a specialist outpatient hospital clinic.

You may have a further test arranged - this will usually be as an outpatient but occasionally we might try and get another test such as a CT scan while you are in the unit. This may result in you having to wait longer along with all other emergency patients as this will not be a planned scan. You may alternatively (if suitable) be asked to or given the choice to return to the clinic for the scan on the next available day.

There is a small chance that you will require admission to SAU (32b) directly from clinic.





**PATIENT  
APPROVED** 

For further information, please speak to  
the staff looking after you.



0117 4143233 or via the  
hospital switchboard.



[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.

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