

Pending trauma surgery

Patient information factsheet

Overview

- You have been seen by the Trauma and Orthopaedic Team.
- Your case is now on our pending trauma list.
- This leaflet explains what this means.
- It also explains what will happen next and what to expect in the next few days.

What does 'pending trauma' mean?

Being on the pending trauma list means:

- Your injury needs surgery.
- The surgery is not an emergency right now.
- Specialist doctors review your case every day.
Your operation will be booked as soon as a suitable theatre space is available.
- Being on the pending trauma list does not mean you will have surgery on the same day.
- Surgery may happen in a few days, a week, or sometimes longer.
This depends on your injury and how busy the service is.

Why can it take time?

- The hospital treats new injury patients every day. Some injuries need surgery sooner than others.
- To keep everyone safe, operating room time is planned based on:
 - ✓ How urgent the injury is
 - ✓ When the injury happened
 - ✓ How complicated the surgery is
 - ✓ Available operating theatre rooms, staff and resources.
- Your position on the list may change as new emergencies arrive.

How will I be contacted?

While you are on the pending trauma list, the Trauma Team may call you.

They may ask you to:

Stay at home but be ready

You might be:

- Asked to stay available to be contacted.
- Given instructions when to stop eating and drinking (for example “Do not eat/drink after midnight”).
- Asked to be available to come to hospital at short notice if an operating theatre slot opens.

Come to the hospital for a review

- Sometimes you may be asked to come back to hospital the next day.
- This may be for another check or to wait for a surgery slot.
- Even if you come in, your operation may still be delayed if more urgent patients arrive.

Can my operation be delayed or cancelled?

- Yes, delays or cancellations can happen, even at short notice.
- This is because trauma theatres must be ready for emergencies at any time.
- If your surgery is changed, we will tell you as soon as possible and explain what happens next.

What should I do while waiting?

- Keep your phone switched on and make sure you can hear it if it rings.
- Follow any instructions about fasting (not eating or drinking).
- Stay close to the hospital if you are told to.
- Tell us straight away if your contact details change.
- Get medical help if your symptoms get worse.

When should I seek urgent medical attention?

Go to your nearest Emergency Department, or call us (numbers below) if you experience:

- Pain that is getting worse and isn't helped by medicine.
- Numbness, tingling or colour change in the injured limb.
- Increasing swelling, redness or signs of infection.
- Fever or feeling generally unwell.
- Any sudden change that concerns you.

Our commitment to you

- We know that waiting for surgery can feel stressful and frustrating.
- Please be reassured that:
 - ✓ Senior doctors review your case every day.
 - ✓ Your surgery will happen as soon as it is safe to do so.
 - ✓ Decisions are made based on clinical need and patient safety.

Thank you for your patience and understanding while we work to treat all trauma patients safely and fairly.

Contact our service

If you have any queries, please contact the Orthopaedics Team

Email: whh-tr.orthopaedics@nhs.net

Tel: 020 7288 5663, 020 7288 3427 or 020 7288 3310, Monday to Friday, 8am to 4pm.

Contact our Trust

If you have a compliment, complaint or concern, please contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on **020 7288 5551** or whh-tr.PALS@nhs.net.

If you need a large print, audio or translated copy of this leaflet, please email whh-tr.patient-information@nhs.net. We will try our best to meet your needs.

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