



Elective Surgery Waitlist

What is the Elective Surgery Waitlist?

Elective surgery is non-emergency surgery that is planned in advance.

Once it is decided by a doctor in consultation with the patient that elective surgery is required, the patient is placed on a waiting list. This is called the Elective Surgery Waitlist and is managed by the Waitlist and Inpatient Booking Service teams.

Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital (SCGH) and Osborne Park Hospital (OPH) are part of the same Health Care Group, so even though you may initially meet with your doctor at SCGH, you may be selected to have your surgery or procedure undertaken at OPH.

How soon will I have my operation?

The assessing doctor has determined how urgently your surgery is needed and has requested your placement on the Elective Surgery Waitlist in a clinical urgency category. All patients are treated in accordance with their category, and within each category most patients are treated in the same order they are added to the Waitlist.

The Inpatient Booking Service team will notify you by mail or telephone when your operation and pre-admission dates are scheduled.

Waitlist categories

- **Category 1 - Urgent.** When admission for surgery within 30 days of being placed on the Waitlist is desirable. This is for a condition that has the potential to deteriorate quickly, to the point that it may become an emergency.
- **Category 2 - Semi-urgent.** When admission for surgery within 90 days of being placed on the Waitlist is desirable. This is for conditions assessed clinically as semi-urgent, but which are not likely to deteriorate quickly or become an emergency.
- **Category 3 - Non-urgent.** When admission for surgery within 365 days of being placed on the Waitlist is desirable. This is for conditions assessed clinically as non-urgent but necessary, and which are unlikely to deteriorate quickly or have the potential to become an emergency.

What do I need to do?

- The doctor will discuss with you your expected length of stay in hospital. You will need to make your own arrangements to attend appointments before and after your surgery, on the day of admission, and any additional support you may require when you return home.
- If you do not attend two appointments, or refuse two surgery dates, you will be removed from the Waitlist. You will receive a letter to inform you of your removal. If you still require the surgery you will need to begin the process again and obtain a new referral from your General Practitioner (GP).

- Follow the procedures and advice given to you by the hospital, including information on how to stay as fit and well as possible for surgery. This includes stopping smoking or losing weight if this instruction has been given to you. If you have not achieved these goals you must inform the Inpatient Booking Service, as your surgery may be cancelled.
- Arrange your own transport to and from the hospital.
- Bring your Medication List and your Health History List to all appointments and complete the Health Questionnaire if you have been given one.
- If you are having a procedure that is a 'Day Case' (admission and discharge on same day as your operation / procedure) you will need to arrange for someone to stay with you overnight when you return home.

What if there is a delay or my surgery is rescheduled?

The Hospital tries to ensure that patients are treated within the assigned recommended timeframe but this is not always possible. Your surgery may be delayed or rescheduled at the last minute due to patients presenting to the Emergency Department or those who require more urgent surgery. We will reschedule your surgery as soon as possible.

Please continue with your GP appointments and keep them informed of your situation.

You must contact the Inpatient Booking Service team if:

- Your details change i.e. if you change your name, address, phone number, your Next of Kin, or your GP's contact details change.
- You no longer wish to have the surgery or have decided to have your surgery privately.
- You are scheduled for other surgery or procedures either publicly or privately.
- Any personal circumstance that may lead to cancelling or deferring your surgery i.e. a planned / booked holiday.
- You require an interpreter or assistance for a disability.

How can I contact the Inpatient Booking Service?

Telephone SCGH on **6457 3333** and ask to be put through to the Inpatient Booking Service team.

If you have been offered a Pre-admission appointment or Surgery date by OPH, contact the Osborne Park Hospital Waitlist Coordinator on **9346 8142**.

This document can be made available in alternative formats on request.

Sir Charles Gairdner Osborne Park Health Care Group

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