

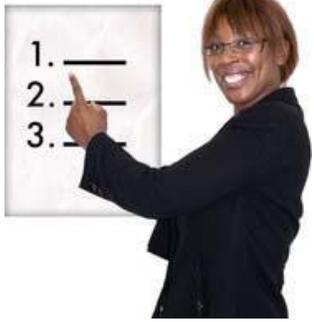
# About your operation



**What you need to know about your operation**



**Before you go to hospital**



Make a list of questions you want to ask.  
Or get someone else to write them down for you.



We need to know which medicines and tablets you take.  
This includes painkillers, eye drops and vitamins and any ones your doctor gives you.



You must take all your tablets and medicines to hospital with you.



Write down how you feel – any pains or feelings you have that tell you that you are ill.



Write down when these feelings started.

Say what makes them better or worse.



Ask your doctor or someone at the hospital if you want help at the hospital.



You can ask a friend or family member to come with you.



## **Before your operation**

It is very important to stop eating and drinking at the right time before your operation.



The hospital will tell you when to stop eating and drinking.



The nurse will check your blood pressure and temperature.

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He or she may ask you some questions.

You or your carer can answer the questions.



You may need to change into some different clothes, such as an operating gown.



You will meet your doctor. He or she will check your chest.



### **Anaesthetic**

The doctor will talk to you about the right **anaesthetic** for you.

An anaesthetic is something that stops you from feeling pain while you are having your operation.

	<p>There are 2 kinds of anaesthetic.</p>
	<p>1. A <b>local</b> anaesthetic is an injection or a cream.</p> <p>It stops you hurting in the part of your body where you are having the operation.</p> <p>You do not go to sleep.</p>
	<p>2. A <b>general</b> anaesthetic will make you go to sleep during the operation.</p>
	<p>A general anaesthetic can be given by an injection in your hand or by a face mask.</p>



If you have an injection in your hand, the nurse may put some special cream on your hand so you will not feel the injection.



If you have a face mask, the doctor will put a mask on your face.

You put it on and breathe in the gas. It may smell a bit funny.



You will go to sleep.



A doctor will give you the drug to send you to sleep.



He or she will look after you during the operation.



### **After your operation**

You will wake up in a room called the recovery room.



You may:

- feel sick
- have a headache
- feel tired or confused



If you feel like this, tell the nurse.



The nurse can give you some medicine to make you feel better.



When you feel better, a nurse will take you to a ward.



You can have some food and drink.



You may need to stay in the hospital for a few days.



This is so the doctors and nurses can make sure you are OK.



You should ask the doctor or nurse how the operation went.



It is important you understand what the doctors say to you and what you must do to get better



They will decide when you are ready to go home and carry on as before.



When the doctors think you are ready, you can pack your clothes and get ready to go home.

	<p>They may give you some medicine to take at home.</p>
	<p>For information about being in hospital, please read the leaflet called <b>Welcome to Russells Hall Hospital</b></p>
	<p><b>Further information</b></p> <p>If you need help or have any questions, please call the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on 0800 073 0510</p>

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