



## Patient Information

# Guidelines Following Skin Surgery

We hope that your stay in our Day Surgery Unit has been comfortable and to your satisfaction. We hope that you have a speedy recovery and that the following instructions will be of help.

- You may have slight oozing from the wound, this is normal and a clean dressing can be applied. Keep the wound dry for 48 hours. You may then have showers or a bath if you like but do not soak the wound for more than a few minutes.
- Check the wound daily for any increasing redness, bleeding, discharge, swelling or pain. Contact your General Practitioner (GP) immediately with any of these problems as they may be signs of an infection.
- If your stitches are dissolvable they may take up to three weeks to disappear. If your stitches are not dissolvable please make an appointment with your GP practice nurse to have them removed in \_\_\_\_ days' time.
- For any discomfort your usual pain relief may be taken or the Day Surgery Unit may supply you with some.
- If you have been given support stockings to wear it is important that you continue to wear them day and night until you are fully mobile (at least 24-48 hours). The stockings should be removed for a short time daily to wash the feet and legs. You may also hand wash the stockings but do not dry them by direct heat (radiator or tumble dryer).
- We will tell you about any follow up before you leave. If you need an outpatient appointment we will request one for you and the date and time will be sent to you by post.

**You were given the following pain killers while in Day Surgery**

**Paracetamol at**

**Codeine at**



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## Ibuprofen at

### **Instructions for patients who have had a general anaesthetic.**

Anaesthetic drugs remain in the body for 24 hours and gradually wear off over this time.

During the 24 hours following your anaesthetic, you are under the influence of drugs and it is important to follow these instructions:

- Do not drive a car or any other vehicle, including a bicycle.
- Do not operate machinery or appliances such as cookers or kettles.
- Do not drink any alcohol.
- Do not lock the bathroom or toilet door or make yourself inaccessible to the person looking after you.
- Drink plenty of fluids and eat a light diet, avoiding heavy or greasy foods.
- Take things easy for the day after your operation and do not work with machinery or take strenuous exercise.
- Do not make important decisions or sign important documents for 24 hours after your anaesthetic.

Some people take longer to recover from the effects of an anaesthetic so these guidelines may continue to be followed for up to 48 hours, if necessary.

**If there are any problems after you return home, please telephone your GP or out of hours GP service, or the Day Surgery Unit on 01793 604148 between 8.00am and 7.00pm, Monday to Fridays (excluding bank holidays).**

**After 7.00pm or at weekends please contact the Surgical Assessment Unit on 01793 604039.**

If you have any suggestions on how we can improve our service, we would be happy to hear from you. Please write to:

Senior Sister  
Day Surgery Unit  
Great Western Hospital  
Marlborough Road  
Swindon  
SN3 6BB



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Smoking will not be permitted on any NHS site in England. Smoking will not be permitted within any of our buildings or anywhere outside on our sites. Smoking facilities will not be provided. Please be considerate of others when vaping in hospital grounds.

**This information sheet is available to order in other languages and formats. If you would like a copy, please contact us on 01793 604031 or email [gwh.pals@nhs.net](mailto:gwh.pals@nhs.net)**

**Document Control**

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