

# Information for patients and carers

## Having a Local Anaesthetic

Information for day case patients



This leaflet is for any patient having an operation under local anaesthetic. It will let you know what to expect and tell you how to prepare for your operation.

## What is a local anaesthetic

- Your operation will be performed under a local anaesthetic
- This involves the surgeon giving you an injection to numb a part of your skin before operating
- You will be awake throughout the operation
- You may need to arrange for someone to take you home following the procedure. You should not drive until the following day unless otherwise advised by your doctor

## Preparing for the operation

- You may eat and drink normally on the day of the operation
- Please take a bath or shower on the morning of your operation
- Please remove all nail varnish before you come to the hospital and keep make up to a minimum
- Please leave all jewellery and valuables at home
- Please arrive at the hospital at the time stated in your admission letter
- If you are taking medicines, you should continue to take them as usual unless your anaesthetist or surgeon has asked you not to. For example, if you take drugs to stop you from getting blood clots (anticoagulants), aspirin and drugs for diabetes or herbal remedies, you will need specific instructions

## What you should bring with you

- Your hospital admission letter
- Any medicines you are taking including tablets, inhalers, patches or sprays
- A dressing gown and slippers
- Glasses if you wear them to read
- Something that will help you to pass the time, such as a book or magazine. It is likely that you will need to wait for your operation. Please be prepared to stay all day. Unfortunately, delays are sometimes unavoidable

## What will happen on the day

- A nurse will discuss your operation, answer your questions and prepare you for surgery
- You may be asked to sign a consent form by the surgical team if you have not already done so
- You may be offered refreshments depending on the procedure

## Going home

- Any numbness should wear off over a period of 3 to 6 hours
- If you experience pain after this, you could take a mild pain killer such as Paracetamol. Please avoid taking aspirin-based pain killers. Please ensure that you have a supply of pain killers at home
- Before you go home you will be given information about future appointments and how to look after your wound
- Please do not go to work on the day of your operation and ask your surgeon if you need to take any further time away from work

## Contact details

Should you require further advice or information please contact:

Rawcliffe Day Case Unit, Chorley Hospital (8am-8pm Monday to Friday)

**(01257) 245733**

Lancashire Elective Surgery Unit, RPH (8am -8pm Mon to Fri)

**(01772) 522594/ 523405**

Ward 4, RPH

**(01772) 522244**

Charles Beard Theatre/Dressing Clinic, RPH

**(01772) 523542**

## Sources of further information

[www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk](http://www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk)

[www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

[www.accessable.co.uk](http://www.accessable.co.uk)

[www.patient.co.uk](http://www.patient.co.uk)

[www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/veteran-aware](http://www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/veteran-aware)

<https://bepartofresearch.nihr.ac.uk/>

[www.rcoa.ac.uk/patient-information](http://www.rcoa.ac.uk/patient-information)

All our patient information leaflets are available on our website for patients to access and download:

[www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets](http://www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets)

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If you want to stop smoking, you can also contact Smokefree Lancashire on Freephone **08081962638**.

**Please ask a member of staff if you would like help in understanding this information.**

**This information can be made available in large print, audio, Braille and in other languages.**

Our patient information group review our leaflets regularly, if you feel you would like to feedback on this information or join our reading group please contact on email address:

[patientexperienceandinvolvem@LTHTR.nhs.uk](mailto:patientexperienceandinvolvem@LTHTR.nhs.uk)

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