

An Easy Read booklet



# Coming in for checks

Having a 'pre-operative assessment'

If you are going into hospital for an operation, you will probably have to come in a few days or weeks before your operation for a 'pre-op' assessment.

---



This leaflet will tell you all about what will happen at this appointment.

---



When you arrive at the pre-op unit, the person on reception will check your name and address and then will ask you to sit and wait to see the nurse.



A nurse will then call you in to a room. She will ask you a lot of questions about your health.



She will also check your blood pressure. This is done by putting a band on your arm which becomes very tight.

---



It will feel strange but will not hurt you and will only last a few seconds.

---

The nurse will also weigh you and may measure your height.

---



The nurse will ask you to have a blood test. She will ask you to roll up your sleeve and will tie a tight strap on the top of your arm so she can see your vein – where the blood is.



She will put a needle into your arm – it will hurt a bit but will not last long. Your blood is collected in small tubes which are sent away to be tested.

---



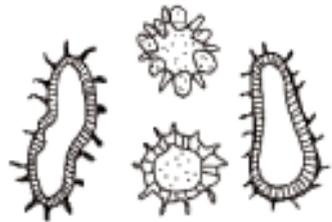
You might also be asked for a urine sample – you will need to pee into a small pot.

---



All people coming for operations have to be tested to see if they have germs on their skins.

---



The nurse will use a thing like a long cotton wool bud to wipe inside your nose and mouth.



It may tickle but will not hurt and will only take a few seconds.

---



A doctor may also come and see you at this appointment and will explain the operation to you.

---

He or she will probably ask you and your carer some questions and will ask you if you have any questions for him or her.

---



When the nurse and doctor have all the information about you that they need, you will be able to leave.

---



If your checks are ok, your operation can go ahead.



Sometimes, you will need to take tablets or use a special skin wash or skin cream for a few weeks before you can have the operation.



Your doctor (GP) will tell you if this is needed.

---

If you or your carer needs help while you are in the hospital, ask one of the nurses to either call the Learning Disability Co-ordinator on ext 8159 or PALS on ext 8338.



More information for people with learning disabilities and their carers can be found on the Trust website at: [www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk](http://www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk)



Also available in this series:

- Getting help in hospital
- Having a blood test
- Having an X-ray
- Having a scan
- Going to A&E
- Going to CDU
- What happens in pre-operative assessment
- Giving consent
- Having a general anaesthetic
- Washing your hands



Easy Read booklet number 7  
Images courtesy of the Change Picture  
Bank and Jane Burnett  
Patient Information Service  
Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust  
V2 October 2009