



University Hospitals Bristol
NHS Foundation Trust

Patient information service
Learning disabilities

Having a pre-operative check



This leaflet will tell you what happens when you have a check up before an operation.

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If you are going into hospital for an operation, you may have to go in before for some checks.



Or you may get a phone call. This is to make sure you are well enough to have your operation.



When you arrive at the place for your test, the person on reception will check your name and address.



They will ask you to sit and wait for the nurse.



The nurse will call you into a room.



The nurse will check your blood pressure. This is done by putting a band on your arm which gets tighter and then loosens.



The nurse will check your pulse. This will tell the nurse how fast your heart is beating.



The nurse will take your temperature.



The nurse will check how much oxygen is in your blood. This is called oxygen saturations. This is done by putting a clip on the end of your finger.



The nurse will weigh you and check how tall you are.



You may have a test called an ECG. This shows how your heart is working. This test does not hurt.



The Nurse will check they have all the right information about you like your medical history and if you take any medicines. If you take any medicines you must bring a prescription from your GP.



The nurse will talk to you about the procedure. They will talk to you about what to expect while you are at hospital and when you go home after.



The nurse will ask you when your last period was. If you are not able to remember they may ask you to do a pregnancy test.



This is to make sure you are not pregnant because the procedure can have risks to the baby if you are.



If the nurse asks you to do a pregnancy test, you will need to wee into a pot. The nurse can test your wee to make sure you are not pregnant.



The nurse will ask you to have a blood test. This means you will have to give some of your blood.



The nurse will tie a strap around your arm, which will help find your vein where the blood is.



The nurse will put a needle into your arm. It might hurt a little, like a scratch, for a short time afterwards.



Your blood will be put in small tubes, which will be sent away to be tested.



Everyone who comes for an operation has to be tested to see if they have germs on their skin.



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



It only takes a few seconds. It might tickle. It will not hurt.



When the tests are finished, a doctor may come to talk to you about the general anaesthetic.



Anaesthetic is the medicine you will be given to make you go to sleep before the operation.



The doctor will ask you some more questions, and you can ask questions about the operation.



When the nurse and doctor have all the information they need, you can leave.



If your checks are okay, the operation will happen. You will be given the date for the operation.



As well as providing clinical care, our Trust has an important role in research. This allows us to discover new and improved ways of treating patients.

While under our care, you may be invited to take part in research. To find out more please visit:

www.uhbristol.nhs.uk/research-innovation
or call the research and innovation team on
0117 342 0233.

For access to other patient leaflets and information please go to the following address:

www.uhbristol.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/information-for-patients/.

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For an interpreter or signer please contact the telephone number on your appointment letter.



For this leaflet in large print or PDF format, please email patientleaflets@uhbristol.nhs.uk

