Surgical Assessment Unit

Patient Information
Welcome to the Surgical Assessment Unit (SAU).

We have eight assessment trolleys, four male and four female, an assessment clinic and a waiting room which are located on Orrell Ward, Level 1, Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan.

This leaflet gives you some basic information about the unit and what you may expect. The unit is run by a senior nurse and a care support worker. It is a good idea to bring an overnight bag with you in case you need to stay.

**Why have I been transferred?**

You have been transferred to this unit for assessment by doctors from the Surgical team.

This does not necessarily mean that you need an operation.

When you arrive on the unit the following will be checked:

- Blood pressure
- Temperature, pulse and breathing
- A sample of urine
- Blood will be taken for various tests

You may be asked to put on a gown.

You will be asked questions about your previous medical history, any treatment you are currently having and what has brought you into hospital this time. You may have a fine tube called a cannula placed in your arm in case you need to be given fluid through your vein. You may need other types of investigations, such as X-rays or scans.

These investigations will help the doctor decide whether you need to be admitted to a ward or can be discharged home.

We would like to reassure you that safeguarding your privacy and dignity is a high priority for all our staff. The Unit has separate male and female bays, however, if you have any anxieties at all please speak to the nurse working in the unit.

**What happens next?**

You may be in the unit for several hours, and the length of time depends on the tests requested. On admission to SAU all patients are asked not to eat or drink anything until a plan of care has been made. If this is going to take a long time then fluids may be given through the cannula in your arm. The nurse in the unit will inform you when you can eat and drink.
If the doctor has determined that you need to stay in hospital you will be transferred to a bed on a ward. Sometimes there are delays in this process and if you have any issues, please speak to the nurse working in the unit.

If you have driven yourself to the hospital the nurse on the unit will be able to give your car details to the hospital security and parking charges will be waived. If a friend or relative has brought you to the hospital then parking charges need to be paid.

**Visiting**
Visiting is open and your relatives may visit you at anytime of the day but unfortunately we do not have any facilities for relatives on the unit.

**Contact information**
Our telephone number is: 01942 822581
Comments, Compliments or Complaints

The Patient Relations/Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) Department provides confidential on the spot advice, information and support to patients, relatives, friends and carers.

Contact Us

Tel: 01942 822376 (Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm)

The Patient Relations/PALS Manager
Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust
Royal Albert Edward Infirmary
Wigan Lane
Wigan WN1 2NN

Ask 3 Questions

Become more involved in decisions about your healthcare. You may be asked to make choices about your treatment. To begin with, try to make sure you get the answers to three key questions:

1. What are my options?
2. What are the pros and cons of each option for me?
3. How do I get support to help me make a decision that is right for me?

How We Use Your Information

For details on how we collect, use and store the information we hold about you, please take a look at our “how we use your information” leaflet which can be found on the Trust website: www.wwl.nhs.uk/patient_information/Leaflets/default.aspx

This leaflet is also available in audio, large print, Braille and other languages upon request. For more information call 01942 773105.