

Your general practitioner's commitment

Your general practitioner (GP) is an important partner in your health care and it is strongly recommended that you to keep your regular appointments with your GP while waiting for your surgery. Your GP will:

- Keep you fit and well while waiting for surgery.
- Help make contact with the hospital if there is any change in your condition while you are waiting for surgery.
- Unless you advise us otherwise, information relevant to your continuing care and management will be shared with your GP while you are waiting for treatment, and following your surgery.

Elective Surgery Patient Information

Delivering a Healthy WA

Hospital Contact:



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This brochure is designed to give you additional information if you are a patient on the elective surgery waiting list at a public hospital.

Elective surgery is the term given to all non-emergency surgery for which admission to hospital can be delayed for at least 24 hours.

People who are due for elective surgery are given a clinical category based on their assessment by a medical specialist.

Under normal circumstances, patients with the highest urgency classification (Category 1-urgent) will be scheduled for surgery ahead of other patients.

There are three clinical categories, used nationally, for classifying patients for surgery:

Category 1 - urgent

Desirable waiting time for urgent surgery is 30 days or less.

Category 2 - semi-urgent

Desirable waiting time for semi-urgent surgery is 90 days or less.

Category 3 - non-urgent

Desirable waiting time for non-urgent surgery is 12 months or less.

Although public hospitals make every attempt to meet these timelines, hospitals must give priority to emergency patients who require a hospital bed.

Your commitment

As a patient on the elective surgery waiting list, your commitment is to:

- Follow the procedures and advice outlined in the information provided to you by the hospital, including information on how to stay as fit and well as possible for surgery.
- Attend the hospital on the confirmed admission date, and attend any pre-admission clinics and postoperative follow-up appointments.
- Notify the hospital of a change in contact details.
- **Advise the hospital of:**
 - any change in your willingness to have the surgery
 - any other personal circumstances that may lead to the need to cancel or defer your surgery
 - your acceptance of a proposed admission date (when provided)
- **Advise the hospital if:**
 - you are on another public hospital waiting list for elective surgery
 - you change your contact details, such as a change of address or phone number

Failure to attend a scheduled appointment without prior notice and good cause may result in you no longer being listed on the waiting list and surgery not being offered.

Our commitment

We will:

- Ensure that you are allocated to an appropriately qualified medical practitioner.
- Notify you of your placement on the waiting list within 10 days of being placed on the list.
- Contact you if you have not had your surgery within the desirable waiting time for surgery.
- Refer you to the specialty that has the shortest waiting time for elective surgery at our hospital or another public hospital.
- Ensure appropriate information is available to your general practitioner about the referral processes, waiting times and best management for your condition.
- Provide surgery on the booked date and not cancel your admission on more than two occasions without good cause.

