

Welcome

Welcome to the Pre-Op Assessment Clinic in St. Vincent's University Hospital. We hope this leaflet will answer some of your questions about the Pre-Operative assessment that your surgical doctor has referred you to and how you can prepare for it.

What is Pre-Operative Assessment?

Prior to your surgery, we need to make sure that you are as fit and healthy as possible for your anaesthetic. This means you are less likely to have your surgery delayed or cancelled on the day, as any problems that are discovered are dealt with prior to admission. You will have been referred to us by your surgeon following your outpatient appointment.

How is the assessment arranged?

You will receive a phone call/ letter from the Pre-op nurse to arrange an appointment approximately 2-3 weeks prior to your surgery. Please feel free to bring a member of your family/carer along with you if you wish. You will be asked to bring in any medication that you may be taking.

What does the Assessment entail?

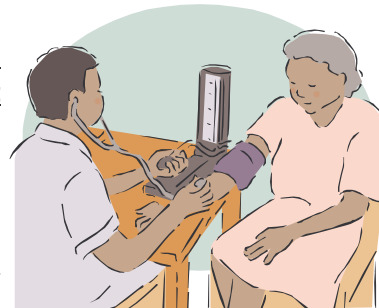
Your assessment entails a nursing and Anaesthetic review. The pre-op nurse may carry out the following:

- Ask you about your medical and surgical history.
- Check your blood pressure, pulse, Temperature, weight, and height and calculate your BMI
- Perform an ECG (heart tracing).
- May send you for an x-ray
- May take some blood samples.

After this, the Anaesthetic doctor will review you, ask similar questions and listen to your heart and lungs. You may be asked to sign a consent form for your anaesthetic. This is a good time to ask any questions you may have regarding your anaesthetic.

How long does the assessment take ?

All assessments are different and the length of time may vary, but you will be here for approximately 1 to 2 hours.



What happens next ?

Following a successful assessment, you are passed fit for surgery and your doctor is informed.

But, if during your assessment, a problem is detected, you may require some further investigations or another specialist referral e.g. cardiology. This is arranged by the Pre-op nurse, who will liaise with you. Your surgery may be delayed for a time until all investigations are completed. After any investigation, the Pre-Op nurse will follow-up your results with the anaesthetist and your team.

If you have undiagnosed high blood pressure, you will be referred back to your G.P. to manage it for you.

Some patients are required to return to the Pre-op clinic for a follow-up

Unable to attend

If you are unable to attend please contact the Pre-op clinic, as your appointment may be offered to another patient.