

Welcome to the Surgical Assessment Unit

Department of General Surgery

Information for Patients

Last reviewed: December 2025

Next review: December 2028

Leaflet number: 970 Version: 2

What is the Surgical Assessment Unit (SAU)?

Our patients usually come from the Emergency Department, GPs, urgent care centres and hospitals within the East Midlands area.

When you arrive we will give you a rough idea of how long you are likely to be with us (estimated discharge date or EDD). Patients usually stay on the Surgical Assessment Unit for about 24 to 72 hours (1 day to 3 days). If you need to stay in hospital for longer than this, you are likely to be moved to a general surgical ward. When you leave you will be given a letter with advice on what to do next.

We are based at Leicester Royal Infirmary (LRI).

Ward 16 LRI (Mixed sex SAU): **0116 258 5332**

Leicester's Hospitals is a university teaching hospital and you may come across student nurses, nursing associates and doctors who are on rotation with us.

**Health information and support is available at www.nhs.uk
or call 111 for non-emergency medical advice**

Visit www.uhleicester.nhs.uk for maps and information about visiting Leicester's Hospitals
To give feedback about this information sheet, contact uhl-tr.informationforpatientsmailbox@nhs.net

Staff providing patient care wear specific uniforms:



Head/Deputy
Head of Nursing
Head of Nursing/
Midwifery and
Lead Nurse



Matron
Midwifery Matron



Ward Sister/
Charge Nurse
Ward Manager



Deputy Sister/
Charge Nurse
Band 6 Midwife



Staff Nurse
Band 5 Midwife



Specialist Nurse/
Education & Practice
Development (EPD) Nurse
Specialist Midwife/
EDP Midwife



Healthcare Assistant
Maternity Care/
Maternity Support
Worker



Outreach Team
and Sepsis Team



Student Midwife



Student Nurse



Pharmacy
Technician



Physiotherapist



Occupational
Therapist



Radiographer



Radiology
Assistant
Practitioner



Radiology
Department
Assistant



Phlebotomist



Respiratory
Physiologist



Cardiac
Physiologist



Plaster
Technician



Trainee Nursing
Associate



Clinical Aide
Trauma



Nursery Nurse



Primary Care
Coordinator



Ward Clerk



Supervisor/
Team Leader



Domestic



Volunteer



Housekeeper



You will need to bring:

- Toiletries, including shaving equipment, toothbrush, toothpaste.
- Day and night clothes. We encourage you to wear day clothes unless your medical condition makes this difficult.
- **All valuables brought into hospital are at your own risk.** Leicester's Hospitals do not accept responsibility. This is unless the valuables have been handed to a member of staff for safe keeping in our central safe which can only be accessed during office hours.

What to expect during your stay

Each day you the medical team will see you. This includes your named consultant and doctors. They will review your progress and plan your care for the day ahead.

If you need an operation whilst you are with us, we will place you on the emergency list. The emergency list is used by a number of specialities across the hospital, so we cannot give you an exact time you will go to theatre. The ward team will keep you informed of any delays.

We will aim to keep you comfortable and free of pain before and after surgery. We will ask you during rounds if you need any pain relief. Do let us know if you need pain relief at other times.

Preventing infections

When you are admitted to the ward we will take 2 swabs from you to check for a germ known as MRSA. We will give you an anti-bacterial liquid soap and a nasal cream to use that both help to reduce the spread of MRSA.

We will give you an information leaflet about this called 'Reducing the risk of MRSA infection'. You can also view it here (leaflet number 264): www.yourhealth.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk

If you have been in hospital before (in this country or abroad) we will need to take a rectal swab to check for CRO. For more information please see leaflet 244 or search "CRO antibiotic resistance" from the same link above.

Visiting times

Visiting times are 11am to 8pm every day.

We kindly ask that **only 2 visitors** are at the patient's bedside at any time.

Older children can visit but each child counts as a visitor.

Babies and young children should not come into hospital.



Meal times

Meal times are at the following times:

Breakfast: 8am to 9am

Lunch: 12pm (midday) to 2pm

Tea: 5pm to 7pm

Hot and cold drinks will be offered throughout the day along with a range of snacks. Please speak to a member of staff for more information.

Please tell us if you have any special dietary needs, for example, because of your religion, or if you need dairy free or gluten free snacks.

Please note: due to food hygiene regulations we cannot reheat any food that you may bring into hospital.

Discharge

On the day of discharge you may be asked to wait in the discharge lounge for a period of time.

Patient experience

Please fill out a patient experience survey during your stay and hand to a member of staff, as this helps us to improve our service for other patients.



اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی اور زبان میں درکار ہیں، تو براہ کرم مندرجہ ذیل نمبر پر ٹیلی فون کریں۔
على هذه المعلومات بلغة أخرى، الرجاء الاتصال على رقم الهاتف الذي يظهر في الأسفل
જો તમને અન્ય ભાષામાં આ માહિતી જોઈતી હોય, તો નીચે આપેલ નંબર પર કૃપા કરી ટેલિફોન કરો

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ, ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਗਏ ਨੰਬਰ 'ਤੇ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ।
Aby uzyskać informacje w innym języku, proszę zadzwonić pod podany niżej numer telefonu

If you would like this information in another language or format such as EasyRead or Braille, please telephone 0116 250 2959 or email uhl-tr.equalitymailbox@nhs.net