



Transfer of elective surgery

For patients on the elective surgery waitlist and their general practitioners (GPs)

The South Metropolitan Health Service (SMHS) is transferring suitable patients between its network of hospitals to where there is better surgery availability. We are rearranging our elective surgery waitlists to provide our patients awaiting elective surgery with more timely care.

The following information is provided to give answers to some questions you may have regarding your transfer.

Why is my surgery being moved?

This move will allow us to fast-track your elective surgery. The hospital to which you are being transferred has the ability to perform your surgery in a more timely manner.

Which hospitals may I be transferred to?

SMHS has a network of seven hospitals that work together to provide care to people living south of the river. You are currently on the SMHS elective surgery waitlist and we will send your referral to one of the following hospitals:

- Armadale Health Service
- Bentley Health Service
- Fiona Stanley Hospital

- Fremantle Hospital
- Peel Health Campus
- Rockingham General Hospital
- Royal Perth Hospital

Why do I have to be transferred?

You have been identified as a patient who is ready for care and who is able to receive your surgery at another hospital within SMHS. This will allow us to provide your surgery in a more timely manner.

Who will perform my surgery?

Experienced surgeons will perform your elective surgery. Regardless of the location of your surgery you will be provided with high quality and safe care.

What is the process for my transfer? What can I expect?

Your details and medical information will be transferred to the new hospital. This hospital will then send you a new appointment letter.

Depending on your medical history and health status, you may also be required to attend a pre-admission appointment prior to your surgery. This is an important appointment to assess that you are suitably prepared for your surgery and can receive an anaesthetic safely.

If you are required to attend a pre-admission appointment, the hospital will send you a letter with the details. Please be aware that failure to attend this appointment could result in your surgery being cancelled or delayed to another date.

How long will it take for me to get my surgery? And when will I be contacted?

Your surgery will be performed at the hospital you have been referred to in a more timely manner because their waitlist for your surgery/procedure is shorter than the original hospital.

The hospital will send you a letter advising your surgery date and time, and any pre-admission appointments (if applicable). This letter will be sent in advance so you can make any necessary personal arrangements.

What happens if I decline to transfer?

Declining your transfer to a hospital that can perform your surgery/procedure in a more timely manner may result in you being

removed from the SMHS elective surgery waiting list.

Before considering declining the transfer, please talk with your GP or contact the hospital on the telephone number provided on the covering letter. It is important for your health that your surgery proceeds and this transfer will help you get the medical treatment you require faster.

If you fail to attend a scheduled appointment without providing notice and/or a valid reason, you may be removed from the waiting list, resulting in surgery not being offered.

If you feel that a misunderstanding has occurred in your situation, please discuss this with the hospital contact person whose details will be provided in the letter you receive.

This document can be made available
in alternative formats on request.

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