

## The Patient Journey

### **Clinic**

Your doctor will have referred you to see one of the surgeons in the outpatients clinic. If surgery is deemed necessary, the surgeon will provide you with information related to your operation and take written consent to perform the procedure.

Consent will also be taken for your details to be held on the British Spinal Register (BSR) and you will be asked to complete a Patient Recorded Outcomes Measures (PROMS) questionnaire. Please see BSR and PROMS section for further information.

You will be asked to complete a written document or pathway with your personal details, home circumstances and a brief medical history. You will have your blood pressure, height and weight recorded and may have bloods and x-rays taken if needed.

### **Preadmission**

You will receive an appointment to attend for pre-admission. A full medical history and physical examination will be performed by a Specialist Practitioner and any potential medical, nursing or social issues may be identified with plenty of time to rectify them pre-surgery. You may also have bloods tests, blood pressure readings, pulse and respirations, assessment of blood clot risk (Venous thromboembolism) skin swabs to detect MRSA and a heart tracing taken. Please bring a photocopy of your current prescription and your reading glasses to this appointment.

The Spinal Specialist Practitioner will give you verbal and written information regarding your admission, surgery, hospital stay and discharge planning. Please feel free to ask any questions. Any X-rays, MRI, further medical tests and anaesthetic review will also be requested if required.

Your date for surgery will be posted to you by your Consultants secretary. If you are unable to attend please let the secretary know as soon as possible so that the theatre slot may be reallocated.

## **Day of Surgery**

You will be admitted to the Surgical Admissions unit.

You will meet your anaesthetist who will explain about your anaesthetic and postoperative pain relief. You will have a small needle inserted into the back of your hand and may be asked to breath some oxygen through a mask before you go to sleep.

After surgery you will be cared for in the recovery area until you are able to go to the ward area. You will have your blood pressure, pule and respirations taken regularly while in the recovery area.

Please see Sau and what to bring into hospital leaflet in the information section.

## **On the ward**

Please see specific information for your surgery in the information section.

## **Discharge**

Please see specific information for your surgery in the information section.

## **Postoperative review**

You will attend an appointment with your GP practice nurse for wound review approximately 2 weeks after surgery.

You will have an appointment with either with Spinal Specialist Practitioner or the Consultant approximately 6 weeks after surgery.

If you have any concerns prior to these appointments please contact your General Practitioner or the Consultants secretary for advice.