

Having a heart operation

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Cardiac Nurse Specialist



Cardiac Surgery process

- Patient is discussed at the Cardiac Multi-disciplinary meeting and is accepted for surgical intervention.
- Patient is then listed and given a priority.

P2 - < 1 Month

P3 - < 3 Months

P4 - > 3 Months

Cardiac Nurse Specialist to then arrange pre assessment appointment.

Pre assessment

Face to face or video call appointment

Aims

- To identify medical issues
- To identify dental issues
- To identify any airway / Anaesthetic issues
- To discuss surgery and complete lilac informed consent
- To discuss the admission, visiting policy, accommodation, allergies, immunization status, medication
- To do 1st blood group, Pre op swabs (MRSA/SA), ferritin level, FBC and chromosome analysis.
- Requirement for play therapy preparation and psychology input.

Once completed patient is invited to surgical pre admission clinic and given a date for surgery.

Surgical Pre-admission clinic

- Chest x-ray
- Doppler ultrasound (if had previous surgery)
- Observations, height and weight
- Pre op swabs if not done and prescription for 5 day decolonisation treatment
- 12 Lead ECG and echocardiogram
- Clerk by Cardiac Nurse Specialist – clinical examination
- Anaesthetic review
- Dental review
- Physiotherapist review
- Occasional surgical consent / chat with surgeons
- Pre op bloods and covid swab dependent on date of surgery.

Surgery

4 cardiac surgeons- RD, RG, AL and RK

2-4 cases a day

More complex cases require a full day slot

Surgery can take 4-6 hours

Post op - Intensive Care or High dependency Unit (POCU)

- Cardiology ward (1C)

Cardiac post operative care

- Sternotomy or thoracotomy incision (bypass- non bypass)
- Intubated nasally/orally and ventilated
- Non-invasive support / oxygen therapy
- Chest drains – mediastinal / pleural
- Pacing wires
- Central line
- Arterial line
- Urinary catheter
- Peritoneal dialysis catheter
- NIRS monitoring
- Wound dressed, dissolvable stitches, drain sutures to be removed 7-10 days post drain removal.



Cardiopulmonary Bypass

- Cardiopulmonary bypass provides patients with cardiac and lung support while bypassing the heart and lungs. It artificially adds oxygen to the blood, pumps/circulates the blood through both the cardiopulmonary circuit and the patient and removes excess carbon dioxide from the blood. It allows the surgeon to perform the operation on the heart whilst it is not pumping blood.
- Heater/ Cooler
- Heparinisation and protamine
- Cardioplegia.

Recovery

- Community nursing team involvement- saturation, weight monitoring and drain suture removal
- Single Ventricle Programme
- INR service
- Follow up appointment post discharge with consultant cardiologist 7-10 days post discharge
- Referral to cardiac feeding clinic (NG or PEG in situ)
- Cardiac Nurse Specialist discharge call
- Cardiac Nurse Specialist helpline access Monday-Friday.

Any questions??