



- attend the hospital on the confirmed admission date
- attend any follow-up appointments after your operation
- see your GP if your condition has changed or you have any concerns that require a review by your doctor.

#### **You must let the hospital know if:**

- your contact details change, such as a change of address or phone number
- you no longer wish to have or require the surgery
- your personal circumstances change that may require your surgery to be cancelled or deferred
- you are on another public hospital waiting list for a different elective surgery procedure
- if you are unavailable at any stage
- if you have a significant change in your health status.

It is important you make every effort to undergo the surgery (or procedure) that has been booked for you. Declining surgery on two occasions may result in your removal from the elective surgery waiting list. If you fail to attend a scheduled appointment without providing notice and/or a valid reason, you may also be removed from the waiting list and not offered an alternative surgery date.

We will advise you in writing if you have been removed from the waiting list. 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.

## Your GP can help

It is important to keep your regular appointments with your GP while you are waiting for your surgery or procedure.

Your GP will:

- help keep you fit and well in preparation for your surgery
- contact the hospital if there is any change in your condition.

Unless you tell us otherwise in writing, we will share information about your care and management with your GP so he/she can provide the most appropriate follow-up care after your surgery or procedure.

## Hospital contact:

### **Rockingham General Hospital**

Waitlist Office  
PO Box 2033  
ROCKINGHAM WA 6967  
Phone: 08 9599 4000  
[www.rkpg.health.wa.gov.au](http://www.rkpg.health.wa.gov.au)

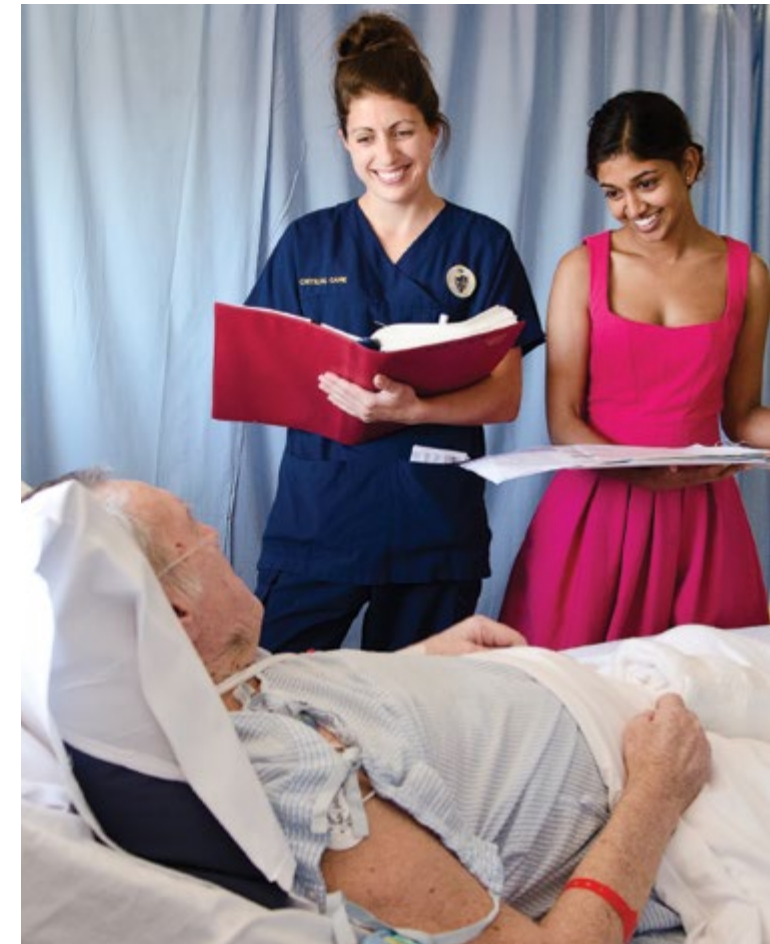
[www.health.wa.gov.au/ElectiveSurgery](http://www.health.wa.gov.au/ElectiveSurgery)



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

Compiled: South Metropolitan Health Service, July 2016  
Publication number - SM 000002

# Elective Surgery information



## This brochure describes what it means to be on a South Metropolitan Health Service public hospital elective surgery waiting list, and what you need to do while you are on our waiting list.

Elective surgery is a term used for non-emergency surgery that is medically necessary, but can be delayed for at least 24 hours.

Elective surgery is usually performed by a surgeon in an operating theatre or procedure room under some form of anaesthesia. Elective surgery is different to cosmetic surgery, which is not performed in public hospitals.

Patients requiring emergency surgery are not placed on the elective surgery waiting list.

## Our network

The South Metropolitan Health Service (SMHS) provides health care to people living in the south metropolitan area via its network of hospitals or health services, which include:

- Fiona Stanley Hospital
- Fremantle Hospital
- Peel Health Campus
- Rockingham General Hospital

The elective surgery you require may not be available at your closest hospital or health service. We will schedule your surgery at the most appropriate location to ensure you receive your surgery in the best possible time.

Your surgery may not take place at the same location as your outpatient appointment and if we can fast-track your surgery at another hospital, your

referral may be transferred between our hospitals at any time. We will inform you if your referral is transferred to another hospital.

Be assured that regardless of the location of your surgery, you will be referred to the right hospital or health service and be provided with high quality and safe care.

## Elective surgery categories

There are three clinical categories used nationally to classify patients for elective surgery. In reviewing your medical condition, your doctor will allocate your elective surgery into one of the following three categories:

- **Category 1:** procedures that should be undertaken within 30 days
- **Category 2:** procedures that should be undertaken within 90 days
- **Category 3:** procedures that should be undertaken within 365 days.

You will receive your elective surgery according to the category you have been given. Most patients are treated in the order they are added to the waiting list.

We make every effort to meet the elective surgery timeframes for each category; however, patients requiring emergency surgery are given priority and this alters the availability of operating theatres and medical staff able to undertake elective surgery on any given day.

## Our commitment

In providing you with your elective surgery, we commit to:

- ensuring you are referred to an appropriately qualified medical practitioner
- notifying you of your elective surgery category within five (5) working days of being registered on the wait list
- notifying you by telephone or mail when your operation date is scheduled and details of any pre-admission clinics to attend
- arranging your surgery at a public hospital nearest to you or where you will have the shortest waiting time
- informing your General Practitioner (GP) about your referral processes, waiting times and best management for your condition
- providing surgery on the booked date and not cancelling your admission on more than two occasions without good cause.

## Your commitment

As a patient on the elective surgery waiting list, you are to:

- follow the procedures and advice given to you by the hospital, including information on how to stay as fit and well as possible for surgery
- advise the hospital of your acceptance of the proposed admission date upon receiving the information from the hospital
- attend any pre-admission clinic appointments arranged for you