

DAY SURGERY

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In the UK the definition of day surgery is the admission of selected patients to hospital for a planned surgical procedure, returning home on the same day . 'True day surgery' patients are day case patients who require full operating theatre facilities and/or a general anaesthetic, and any day cases not included as outpatients or undergoing endoscopy . Surgery that requires a 23-hour stay , including an overnight stay , is not classed as day surgery . Day surgery o ff ers benefits for patients and hospitals. Patients often prefer to recover in the comfort of their own home, and day surgery may cause less disruption to their domestic situation. It also reduces their risk of a hospital- acquir ed infection. For the hospital, it can provide greater patient satisfaction and increase the number of inpatient beds available for patients who need to be cared for in hospital. Successful delivery of day surgery requires the day surgery service to be considered a priority by the hospital, with key enablers in all areas of the pathway providing e ff ective implementation, refinement and progression. T here must be a high-quality pathway (Figure 22.1) sta ff ed by experienced/ expert members of the multidisciplinary team with the equipment and resources they need. This will ensure that there is a well-prepared patient who is in receipt of high-quality day case anaesthesia and surgery and who subsequently has a safe and successful day case discharge.

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