

Preoperative assessment

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A key component to successful day surgery is a well-informed, well-prepared patient. It is essential that the day surgery message starts at the time of referral by the primary care doctor and continues throughout the pathway by all staff who the patient interacts with. Preoperative assessment should follow the same principles as for any other patient and should be nurse led (see Chapter 21). The anaesthetist should review the patient's notes where appropriate and the suitability of the patient for day case surgery should be discussed with the day surgery lead to optimise day case rates. Key preassessment considerations specific to day surgery include:

- Can surgery be delayed until the medical condition is optimised and then plan as a day case?
- Can social factors be addressed for the patient to become a suitable day case?

Consider • Preoperative CPAP • Blood gases/sleep studies Yes • Echocardiogram • Cardiorespiratory referral • Experienced anaesthetist • Book HDU bed No • May be suitable for day case surgery

TABLE 22.3 Benefits of dedicated day surgery facilities. All members of the multidisciplinary team are focused on day surgery

- Nurses with expertise in day surgery
- Nurses not distracted by inpatients
- Activity can continue even during a time of pressures on inpatient beds
- Fewer cancellations because activity can continue even when there are pressures on inpatient beds
- Can be made a COVID secure area – protected from COVID- positive areas of hospital
- Higher chance of successful day case discharge
- Separation from inpatient activity and so patients are more likely to be motivated to get up and go home if they see this as the 'norm'
- Higher patient satisfaction
- Higher quality outcomes

COVID, coronavirus disease.

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