

SELECTION CRITERIA

Surgical

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Surgical techniques have progressed significantly and now cause less physiological disruption and stress to patients; therefore, they have a lower postoperative complication profile and a faster recovery rate. The British Association of Day Surgery's (BADs) Directory of Procedures (DOP) lists over 200 procedures that are now considered to be suitable as a day case (Table 22.1). Traditionally day surgery was limited to cases that lasted less than 1 hour but surgical procedures lasting 3–4 hours are now being routinely performed as successful day cases. Day surgery surgical criteria include the following: There must be a low risk of significant immediate postoperative complications, e.g. catastrophic bleeding or airway compromise. The patient should be able to eat and drink or take oral nutrition postoperatively. Postoperative pain needs to be managed by oral painkillers, which may be in conjunction with local anaesthetic infiltration or peripheral nerve block. The patient should be able to mobilise postoperatively with or without aid. If these criteria are met then the surgeon booking the procedure should add the patient to a day surgery pathway.

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