



Diaphragmatic hernia surgery





Introduction

General Surgery is a branch of medicine dealing with the structure and diseases of the oesophagus (gullet), stomach, and gallbladder. You may be required to have diagnostic tests in order to diagnose your condition and you may require surgical intervention to treat your condition.

What is diaphragmatic hernia surgery?

The diaphragm is a curved muscle that separates the contents of the chest from the abdomen (tummy). Diaphragmatic hernias occur when the diaphragm does not form completely, leaving a gap, or when one or more of your abdominal organs move upward into your chest through a defect (the gap) in the diaphragm. This kind of defect can be present at birth or acquired later in life.

Useful information related to the repair of a diaphragmatic hernia

If whilst waiting for repair of diaphragmatic hernia surgery your symptoms worsen, you should seek help via NHS Direct (call 111) or your GP practice if you are experiencing any of the following circumstances:

- Unable to swallow
- Constant vomiting
- Severe chest/back pain

Guidance for patients

While you are waiting for your procedure, your GP or consultant may recommend an alternative management or treatment to support your symptoms. It is important that you consider these options too in the short term to support your well-being. These may include:

- Lifestyle changes
- Medication

What should I do if my health is deteriorating?

If you feel that there is a change in your condition **please contact your GP or NHS 111 for medical review in the first instance**. They will be able to advise if this is something they can support you with during your wait or they can redirect you to the appropriate service in order to determine a management plan.

Contact us

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The contents of this information has been reviewed and approved by the Clinical Governance Committee of Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust



To change or cancel your appointment please call:

For Luton & Dunstable University Hospital

Outpatient appointments: 01582 561385

To cancel or reschedule surgery: 01582 497053

Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm.

For Bedford Hospital

Outpatient appointments: 01234 355122 **Ext:** 2035

To cancel or reschedule surgery: 01234 792199 or 01234 795953

Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm.

Alternatively, you can visit our website to request a change to your appointment online by following these links:

Luton Site: <https://www.bedfordshirehospitals.nhs.uk/change-cancel-appointment/change-cancel-appointment-luton-and-dunstable-university-hospital/>

Bedford site: [Change / Cancel Your Appointment | Bedford Hospital \(bedfordshirehospitals.nhs.uk\)](https://www.bedfordshirehospitals.nhs.uk/change-cancel-appointment/change-cancel-appointment-bedford-hospital/)

To change or cancel your surgery admission date, please telephone the contact number on your admission letter between 9am to 4pm, Monday to Friday.

For any other queries, please contact your consultant's secretary. Their contact details will be on the most recent letter from your consultant.