



Gynaecology

First Outpatient Appointment



Guidance for patients

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the NHS ability to provide routine elective services. We recognise that patients are waiting longer than we would all like and it is not always possible to identify when treatment will take place.

Referral to treatment waiting times are available at:

[Gynaecology – Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust – My Planned Care NHS](#)

Gynaecology Service

The Gynaecology Service is provided by nine consultants, who are supported by a team of medical staff and specialist nurses. We perform outpatient procedures in our dedicated Women's Unit and offer gynaecology outpatient clinics in the main Outpatient Department. We perform a test of bladder function (urodynamics) in the Outpatient Department.

In addition to our work at Harrogate District Hospital, we also provide services in the local community. Outreach clinics are held at Ripon Community Hospital, Wetherby Health Centre, Yeadon Health Centre and Alwoodley Medical Centre.

The Women's Unit

We have dedicated facilities available in the Women's Unit at Harrogate District Hospital. Here, doctors and nurse colposcopists/hysteroscopists provide:

- Direct access colposcopy and treatment for abnormal smears
- Fast-track clinic for postmenopausal bleeding, with a scan and hysteroscopy if required
- Diagnostic outpatient hysteroscopy
- Operative outpatient hysteroscopy including removal of polyps and fibroids, and retrieval of intrauterine devices
- Minor gynaecological surgical procedures
- Vulval clinic
- Pessary clinic for those with vaginal pessaries for prolapse
- Recurrent miscarriage clinic
- Manual vacuum aspiration for management of miscarriage
- Outpatient endometrial ablation – service currently under development

Early Pregnancy Assessment Unit (EPAU)

Our Early Pregnancy Assessment Unit (EPAU) runs for six days a week (excluding Saturdays). Women with problems in early pregnancy (between six and up to 13 weeks gestation) are treated on the EPAU. Patients need to be referred to the EPAU via a healthcare professional, except for in certain circumstances, such as previous ectopic or molar pregnancy and recurrent miscarriage.

Gynaecology procedures

The gynaecologists provide vaginal, keyhole (laparoscopic and hysteroscopic) and open surgery for a range of gynaecological problems, including period problems, urinary incontinence and pelvic organ prolapse. Before surgery, patients are assessed in our Pre-Operative Assessment and Admissions Unit.

Gynaecological Cancer Service

The Gynaecological Cancer (oncology) Service is a therapeutic service in close collaboration with the Leeds Cancer Centre at St James's University Hospital.

Appropriate cases are managed in Harrogate, with outpatients seen in the Sir Robert Ogden Macmillan Centre by the visiting gynaecological oncologist from Leeds, Mr George Theophilou, and the Macmillan Clinical Nurse Specialist, Marion Webb.

What to do if your health is deteriorating

You can get information and help about a variety of common problems and find useful ways you can help yourself from the Harrogate Health Hub website at <https://www.harrogatehealthhub.co.uk>

Urgent Health Advice

For urgent health advice about physical or mental health when it's not an emergency, please call 111 from any landline or mobile phone. You can also visit www.nhs.uk. The NHS 111 service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Life Threatening Emergencies

For something life threatening – severe bleeding, breathing difficulties or chest pains – please dial 999.

GP surgeries are still open

If you experience an increase in pain, inability to weight bear on this limb or a significant reduction in mobility, you should in the first instance contact your General Practitioner for review and advice.

GP surgeries are still open and are working differently to how they did before the COVID-19 pandemic. GP practices continue to make best use of telephone, online and video consultations. Face-to-face appointments are still being given to those who need it.

When you phone or use an online form to contact your GP surgery to make an appointment, you will be asked some questions which are designed to help staff guide you to the most appropriate clinical person to help you with your condition. This could be a nurse, clinical pharmacist, physician's associate, GP or paramedic.

[Find a GP in the region](#)

Contact us

If you want to discuss any of the above please call: 01423 885959 or email hdft.hello@nhs.net