

First Outpatient Appointment – Neurosurgery

Introduction

The Covid 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. This document provides you with information on how you are able to support yourself while waiting to attend the hospital. The guidance has been written by clinicians who are responsible for your care.

The Neurosurgery Department provides a comprehensive service covering the full range of neurosurgical pathologies including cranial and spinal conditions. UHCW is a designated major trauma centre and the neurosurgery team is central to the management of brain and spinal injury following trauma. In addition to serving the local population, the unit provides a national and international service for more specialised neurosurgical conditions including skull base and vascular surgery, hydrocephalus, neuro-oncology (resection of brain tumours using multi-modality imaging and awake craniotomy). It also delivers a comprehensive spinal service treating the full plethora of spinal conditions. We utilise the most up to date equipment including intra-operative neuro-monitoring and neuro-navigation technology to ensure our patients benefit from state-of-the-art treatment. There is a thriving multidisciplinary service where neurosurgeons work closely and collaboratively with surgeons from other surgical specialties including orthopaedics, ENT, maxillofacial and plastics from within UHCW and beyond. The neurosurgery department is actively involved in brain and spine research.

There are strong links with the University of Warwick Clinical Trials Unit and the NIHR funded hospital research and development programme at UHCW. The department takes part in national clinical trials recruiting patients to studies at the cutting edge of research. The unit continues to expand its portfolio of studies in order to provide patients with the most up to date treatments available.

Please read the following information in conjunction with the staying healthy guidance and also the clinical guidelines for your specific procedure/condition.

What to bring to face to face clinics

In preparation for your clinic appointment please prepare and bring with you;

- A detailed medical history
- A list of your current medications
- Your current social situation; e.g. do you live with someone, are you a carer for them, are you working and type of occupation etc.

You may be asked to have a blood test, an x-ray, an ECG or another form of scan either in preparation for your appointment or on the day of your appointment.

My Planned Care Patient Information Platform

Guidance for Patients

How to access our service

If your GP feels that you need to see a Neurosurgeon, they will send a referral to us via the Choose and Book service. We also accept referrals from other hospital consultants. All referrals are triaged and prioritised by a consultant to ensure your appointment is made in the appropriate clinic.

Whilst waiting for your appointment, there are a number of online resources that provide helpful information for many neurosurgical conditions.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/>

<https://www.britishpainsociety.org/people-with-pain/>

www.painconcern.org.uk

What should I do if my health is deteriorating?

If your health is deteriorating, you need to be seen by your GP for review and further assessment and management. Features requiring more prompt review in A&E would be worsening power or sensation in the arms. If you are unsure as to what to do, please contact us.

Contact Us

Telephone 02476 964000