



PRESS RELEASE

No: 12/2014

Date: 10th January 2014

New Day Surgery Unit Opens

As part of its drive to modernise and improve patient care the GHA has opened the new Day Surgery Unit in St Bernard's Hospital. Day surgery allows a person to come in to hospital for their operation and return home the same day and employs the most up to date surgical and anaesthetic techniques to ensure rapid recovery and minimal complications. Most healthcare providers worldwide are working hard to implement this model of surgery as the norm for the vast majority of surgical procedures as there are multiple benefits for the patient and the healthcare provider. In the UK around 70% of all surgery is carried out this way and the NHS is trying hard to improve this number to be more in line with practice in the USA and Canada where up to 90% of operations are done as day case. A rapid return to normal mobility and nutrition in a person's own home aids recovery and reduced exposure to hospital acquired infections helping to reduce risk. Importantly the GHA will be able to greatly reduce the chance of operations being cancelled due to lack of beds ensuring people are not put through the inconvenience and distress this causes.

To ensure the GHA offers the most up to date practices and the best possible Day surgery care to its patients the old area has been completely redesigned and modernised with facilities for 15 purpose build day surgery beds for patients to be prepared and recover from their operation. Special seating areas with TV and reclining chairs will allow people to complete their recovery from anaesthesia safely and in comfort. Care will be provided throughout by a dedicated Day surgery team. The anaesthetic and surgical departments have worked hard to ensure GHA working practices, guidelines, techniques, and equipment are at the cutting edge of modern day surgery.

With the newly extended opening hours from 8am to 8pm and dedicated care the GHA will be able to offer to do many more procedures as day surgery, including different types of keyhole surgery. Every effort will be made to ensure patients are fully supported in their recovery after discharge with new system in place to ensure people have effective take home pain killers and

other medication given to them before going home. People will have access to a 24 hour help line manned by qualified day surgery nurses for advice or reassurance for the first few days after their operation and will be contacted at home to ensure their recovery is progressing well.

Currently the percentage of day surgery cases has risen from 33% before the opening in September 2013 to over 71% in November 2013 and feedback from the patients has been excellent.