

Pre-assessment before any neurosurgery procedure

At your neurosurgery appointment it may be decided that you need an operation. Before any neurosurgery procedure that requires a general anaesthetic, patients **have to attend a pre-operative assessment** at the Royal Free Hospital. At this assessment, your general health will be checked and if there are any concerns **further appointments or tests may be required**. However most patients only need to attend pre-assessment once, and you will normally do this immediately after the out-patient appointment where it is agreed that you will have a procedure. The doctor will ask you to walk round to pre-assessment. Pre-assessment will add some more time to your visit but the team will try to see you as quickly as possible.

All patients have to be **tested for MRSA** before surgery and this may happen during your pre-assessment. Doing the test about four weeks before surgery allows time to treat you should the result be positive. As the date of surgery may be longer away than four weeks, **it may be necessary to repeat an MRSA test** or wait until nearer the surgery date.

Our waiting times vary depending on your consultant and the procedure you are having. Some waits are about four weeks but the maximum wait is longer. The waiting list co-ordinator for neurosciences, will discuss arrangements for MRSA testing when arranging your admission date with you. The MRSA swab for testing **could then be taken by your GP** and we will provide a pack for this at your pre-assessment appointment. Alternatively, you can return to the Royal Free and have the test performed there.

If you have not had MRSA screening, your procedure date will be **delayed**.

Contact number

Waiting list co-ordinator for neurosciences 020 7830 2446

Thanks for taking the time to read this **important information**.

On behalf of the Neurosurgery Team
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General Manager – Kate Cox