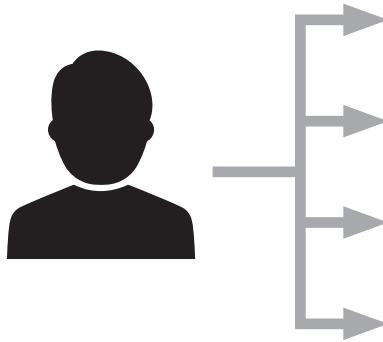


Your Journey through Surgical Assessment Unit

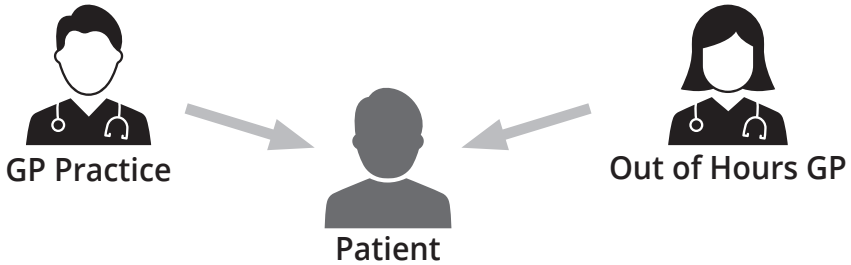


Surgical Assessment Unit

Queen Elizabeth Building
Glasgow Royal Infirmary
84 Castle Street
Glasgow G4 0SF

☎ 0141 201 5834

Surgical Assessment Unit (SAU)



Your GP has referred you to the Surgical Assessment Unit (SAU). This is a specialised area where patients with suspected or confirmed surgical conditions are assessed and either treated or admitted for further care.

Due to the size of the waiting area, we are only able to have one relative per patient. We will ask your relative to wait in the waiting area when you are being assessed by the Nurse Practitioner or Doctor.

If the department is busy, we may ask relatives to go home to make space for patients.

Please note that patients are seen in order of clinical priority and then in order of waiting times.

What happens in SAU?

Firstly, you will be meet one of our **Assisted Practitioner** or **Staff Nurses**.

They will:

- Take some personal details
- Check your blood pressure
- Take Blood Sample
- Insert an intravenous cannula (this a thin plastic tube that is inserted into a vein) if required.
- Take an ECG (heart tracing) if required.
- They will ask you to provide a urine sample.

We may then ask you to take a seat in our **waiting area**. Please be aware that full assessment may take a minimum of 4-6 hours. Please do not have anything to eat or drink until the surgical Nurse practitioner (SNP) or Doctor has seen you. If you need medication, please tell a member of staff who will give you the appropriate medication.

While you are in the waiting are:

The **Surgical Doctor** or **Surgical Nurse Practitioner** will be reading **your referral letter from your GP** to get an understanding of your medical condition. They will also **check your previous medical records** and check any outstanding investigations you may have before meeting you.

You will then meet one of our **Surgical Nurse Practitioners** or **Doctors**.



They will take a **detailed medical history** and complete a **thorough assessment**.

This will involve an in-depth physical examination allowing us to explore all possibilities that may be causing your symptoms. You may need an x-ray or scan before you see the **Doctor**.

The **Surgical Nurse Practitioner** or **Doctor** will discuss your signs and symptoms with the **Registrar (Senior Doctor)** who will advise on what **investigations** (test) are required or what **treatment** you need. This allows us to start treatment without any delays.

When **your tests results are back** you will meet the **Registrar** or **Consultant**.

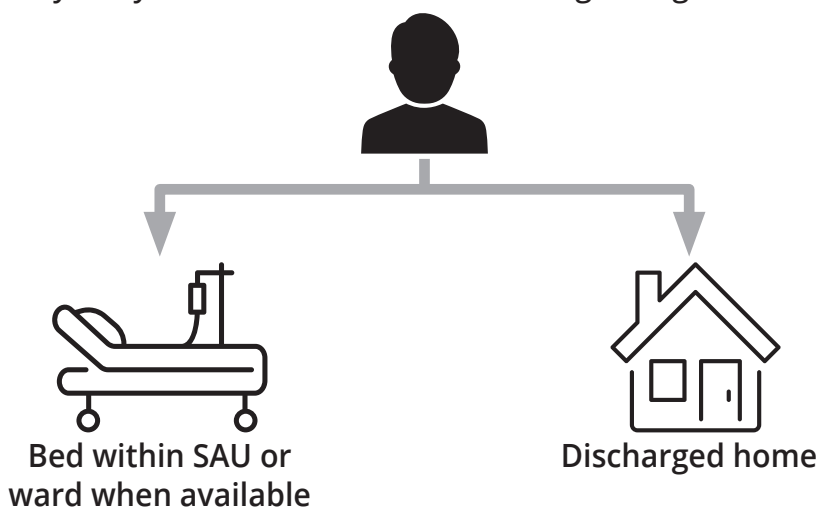


They will be able to **discuss the results fully with you** and answer any questions that you may have.

They may want to carry out further assessment at this point.

The registrar or Consultant will then decide whether you should be **admitted to hospital** or sent home with **appropriate treatment**. They may also wish to arrange investigations for you **as an outpatient**.

We may ask you to take a seat in the waiting area again.



While you are in the waiting area:

- **Our team will begin organising your discharge or your admission to hospital.**
- Please be aware there may be **long waiting times** before a bed becomes available with the unit or ward.
- If you are being **discharged**, we will **organise any follow up appointments or medications** you need.

Any Questions

If you have any further questions, please speak to a member of staff.