

8. Checking you are fit for surgery.

A – If the decision is made to have surgery you will need to attend a Preassessment clinic. This is a health check and may be done over the phone or in a clinic depending on your age, general health and type of surgery planned.

9. On the wait list.

A – Based on the urgency determined by the Specialist, your surgery will either be booked within 1 or 4 months from your preassessment health check. You will receive a letter informing you of this.

10. Two days before admission.

A – You will be phoned by a nurse to check that you are healthy and able to attend your surgery.

11. Admission to hospital for surgery.

A – This will be on the day of your surgery.

12. Discharge from hospital.

A – We aim for a discharge from the ward by 11am. Ensure you have a copy of your discharge summary and any referrals or prescriptions required.

13. Follow up.

A – Depending on your surgery you will either be given a follow up appointment at the hospital or advised to visit your GP.

Please notify staff of your lead support person that you would like them to communicate with.

Patient pathway through General Surgery

The Bay of Plenty District Health Board has an active commitment to the Treaty of Waitangi and the improvement of Māori health.

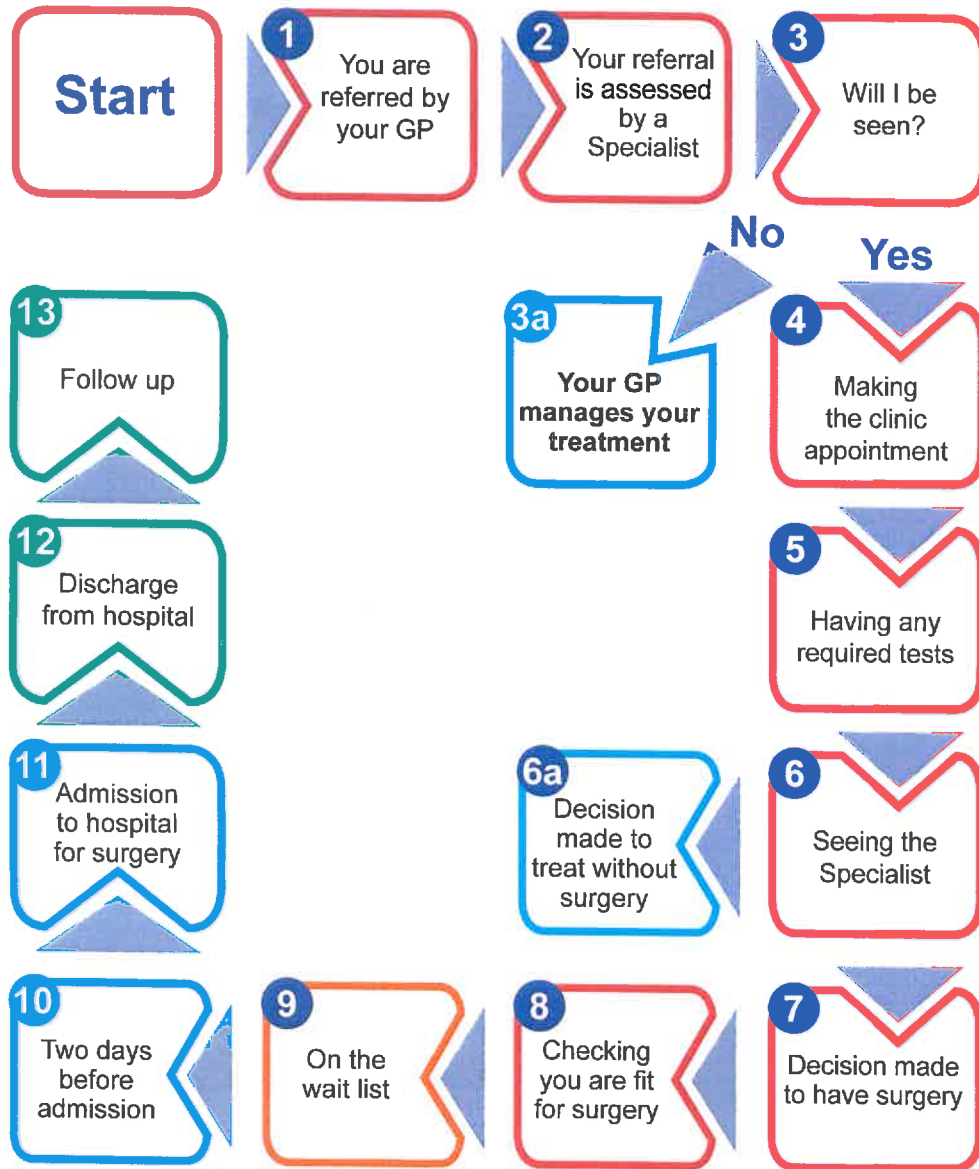
Our Values



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Patient pathway for general surgery



This guide shows the stages involved from when you are referred by your GP to see a Specialist doctor in General Surgery. General Surgery covers a range of different conditions, some of these are more urgent than others and there will be differences in each patient's experience.

1. You are referred by your GP.

A – Your family doctor (GP) will have sent a request (referral) to the hospital for you to be seen. You will receive a letter advising you that it has been received.

2. Your referral is assessed by a Specialist.

A – Your referral will be seen by Specialist who will decide whether you will be able to be seen and also the timeframe that you should be seen in. This is generally 4 months, however if the condition you have been referred in for is more urgent you will be seen sooner. You and your GP will be sent a letter telling you of this decision.

3. Will I be seen?

A – If the hospital is unable to see you, a letter will be sent to you and your GP advising you of this. Your GP will continue to manage your care.

3a. Your GP manages your treatment.

4. Making the clinic appointment.

A – You will receive a letter asking you to ring the hospital and book an appointment. We will work to make the appointment at a time that best suits you, within the days/hours that the clinics are open.

5. Having any required tests.

A – Some patients will be called to have some tests before a clinic appointment is arranged and generally these will be blood tests or xrays and in this case the appointment to see the Specialist will be arranged based on when the results are available.

6. Seeing the Specialist.

A – You and the Specialist will determine the best treatment for you. This may or may not be surgery and either way a plan will be made with you for your care. You are welcome to bring a support person with you.

6a. Decision made to treat without surgery.

A – You will be referred to either another specialist or back to your GP for ongoing treatment.

7. Decision made to have surgery.

A – You may be required to have further tests following this appointment and you may need to attend a clinic for a health check.