FAQ’s

1. How long will I wait to see a Specialist?
   A – Some patients need treatment more urgently than others. For example, people suffering severe pain would generally be seen more quickly than a person with occasional discomfort. If your condition meets the referral criteria you can expect to be seen within 4 months of that decision.

2. Why do I need to be seen by a Physiotherapist?
   A – A Physiotherapist will carry out a musculo-skeletal assessment which is the first step to determining the correct treatment pathway for your condition.

3. What do I do if my condition worsens?
   A – If at any time your condition worsens you should see your General Practitioner who will be able to seek a specialist reassessment which may include a review of your priority for surgery.

4. Why do I need to attend an exercise class?
   A – An essential part of your preparation for surgery is preparing your muscles to be as strong as they can be to enable you to recover quickly.

5. Why do I need to attend an education class?
   A – You need to understand what is going to happen to you in hospital and what preparation you can do to ensure that your time in hospital goes as smoothly as possible. The class will cover aspects of your stay such as preparing to come in, what happens leading up to your operation and in the days to follow, specific precautions and care for your new joint following discharge.

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

Tauranga Hospital 07 579 8000, Whakatane Hospital 07 306 0999
www.bopdhb.govt.nz

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You or your surgeon choose a non-surgical option

Does not meet access criteria

Your Referral is assessed

You receive a letter asking you to call to book appointments to see a Surgeon and a Physiotherapist

Your doctor refers you to the Orthopaedic Department

You are sent a letter identifying your expected wait time

You attend a follow-up clinic appointment

You attend an appointment with an Orthopaedic Surgeon within 4 months of referral

You are now fit for surgery

You or your surgeon choose a non-surgical option

No

Your Surgeon advises you will benefit from surgery

No

You are listed to have surgery within the next 4 months

Are you fit for surgery?

You attend a pre-admission assessment

You receive confirmation of your appointments

The hospital has capacity to perform your surgery

You attend an appointment with an Orthopaedic Surgeon within 4 months of referral

You attend a Physiotherapy assessment

You attend exercise classes and an education class

You are informed of your surgery date

You are listed to have surgery within the next 4 months

Are you fit for surgery?

You attend a pre-admission assessment

The hospital has capacity to perform your surgery

You attend a Physiotherapy assessment

You attend an appointment with an Orthopaedic Surgeon within 4 months of referral