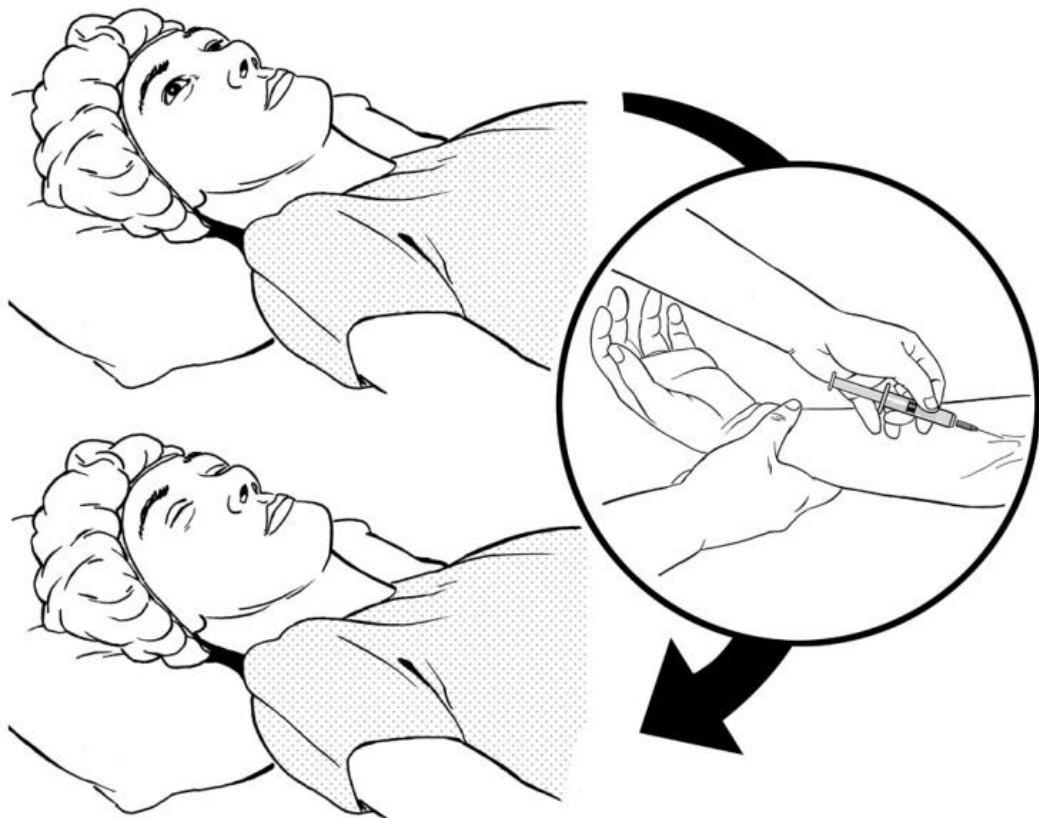


General Anaesthetic





This leaflet tells you what happens when you have a general anaesthetic.

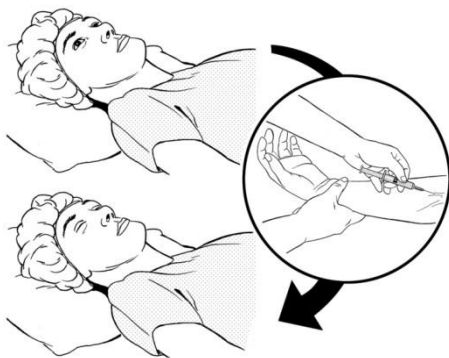


If you are ill, your doctor may say you need some tests or an operation to make you get better.

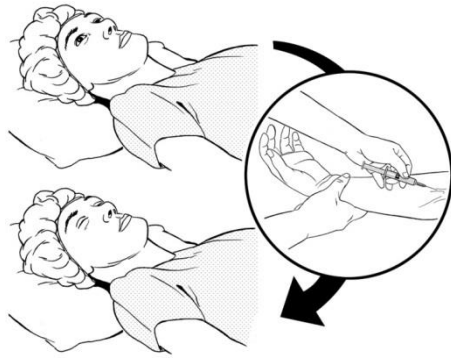


Some people get worried about tests or operations.

Talk to the doctor if you are worried.



You may need a general anaesthetic when you have your test or operation.



General anaesthetic is the medicine you will be given to make you go to sleep before the operation.



About 4-6 hours before you go to the hospital for the test or operation you will have to stop eating.



You may feel hungry but you must not eat anything, not even sweets or chewing gum.



You may not be able to drink anything before your operation.

Check with the nurse about what you can drink before your operation.



Bring your medications with you. Check with the nurse what medicine you should take on the day of your operation.



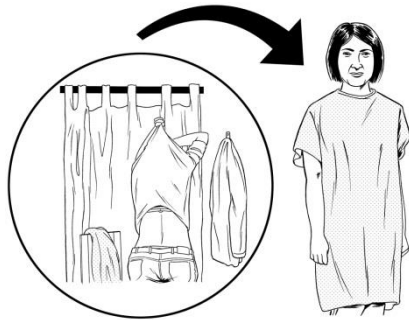
Bring your dressing gown and slippers with you.



Your carer can stay with you if you want.



The nurse will come and take you to the bed.



The nurse will give you a hospital gown to put on. Your carer can help you if you wish.



The nurse will ask you some questions.

You can ask the nurse if you have any questions about the test or operation.



The nurse will pop a bracelet on one of your arms.

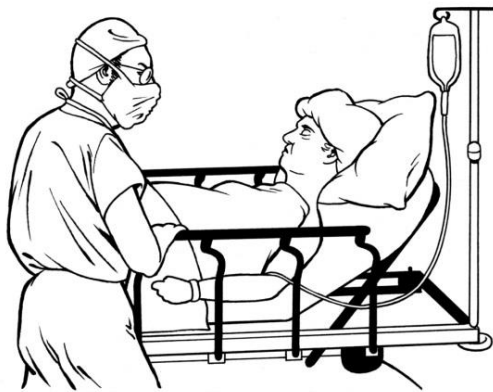


The doctor called anaesthetist will come and see you.



You will be asked to sign a form saying that you want to have the operation.

Ask the nurse if you or your carer have any questions.



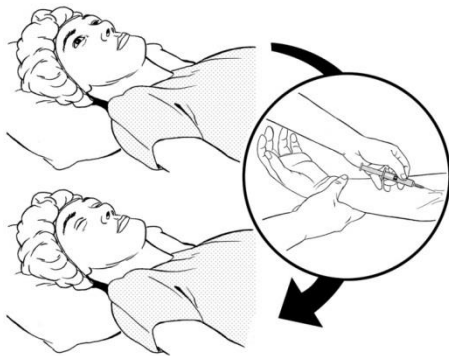
When it is time for your operation or test, you will go to the theatre



They will put a thin needle with a plastic tube into the back of your hand



The medicine comes down a small tube into your hand. It will make you fall asleep very quickly.

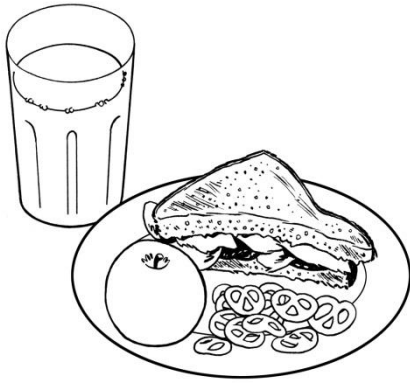


The doctor will check you are asleep.



Nurse will take care of you.

Tell the nurse if you have any pain, are feeling sick or if you are frightened. They can help you.



The nurse will ask you if you want a drink or some food.



You will go back to the ward where a nurse will do some checks and make sure you are okay.



After your test or operation, if you had anaesthetic, the drugs used can affect you for up to 24 hours.

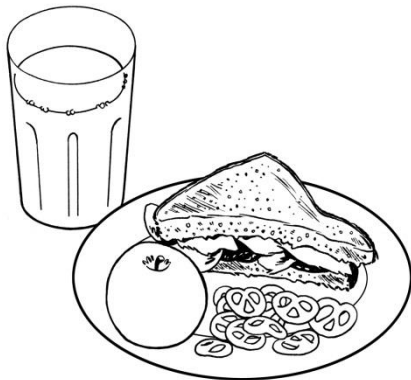
You may feel sleepy.



Do not drive.



Drink lots of water.



Eat light food.



Make sure you have an adult or carer at home to take care of you for the next 24 hours after you go home.



If you have any problems or worries, please ring your GP surgery.

If you have urgent problems when your GP surgery is closed telephone 111 for help.

Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust
Combe Park, Bath BA1 3NG
01225 428331 www.ruh.nhs.uk

If you would like some more help please contact Patient Advice and Liaison Service (called PALS for short). PALS can also help you tell the nurses and doctors what you think of your care.

Email ruh-tr.PatientAdviceandLiaisonService@nhs.net or telephone 01225 825656