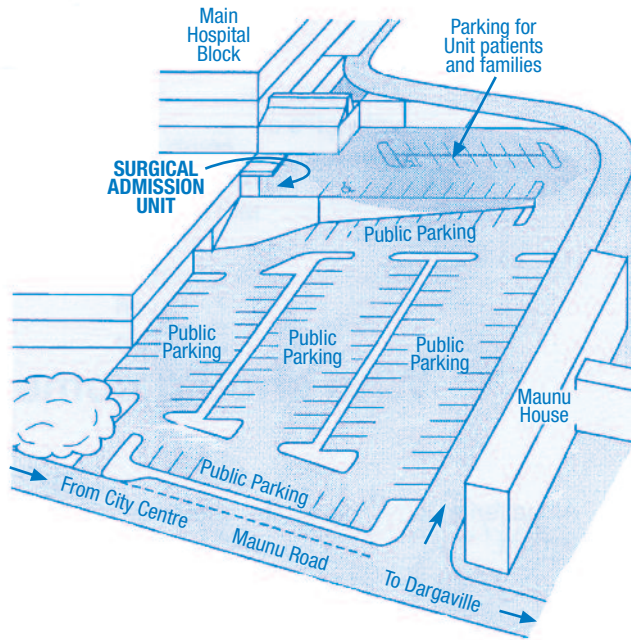


WHERE IS THE CLINIC?



From Maunu Road, enter the hospital through **the main entrance** and follow the signs for the **Surgical Admission Unit**.

WHERE CAN I PARK?

Parking is available near the Surgical Admission Unit as indicated on the map. Please ask the receptionist for a parking permit to be placed in your car for the day when you come in for your appointment.

HOW DO I GET TO WHANGAREI IF I DO NOT HAVE ANY TRANSPORT?

Health shuttles are available for people who may require transport assistance.

For further information please contact:

Dargaville 09 439 8079

Kaeo 09 405 0541

Kaitaia 09 408 0010

Bay of Islands (Please contact Kaitaia)

IF YOU CAN NOT ATTEND...

If you are unable to attend your appointment, please let us know.

You can phone the number on the appointment letter.

Author: Clinical Nurse Specialist (PAC)
Date: February 2012

NDHB
Whangarei Hospital
Private Bag 9742
WHANGAREI, 0148

**NORTHLAND DISTRICT
HEALTH BOARD**
Te Poari Hauora Ā Robe O Te Taitokerau



34755

**NORTHLAND DISTRICT
HEALTH BOARD**
Te Poari Hauora Ā Robe O Te Taitokerau



PRE-OPERATIVE ASSESSMENT CLINIC (PAC)

A Step by Step Guide For Patients



ABOUT THE PRE-OPERATIVE ASSESSMENT CLINIC

The pre-operative assessment clinic (PAC) is designed to offer patients the highest quality of care and ensure your time in the hospital is as comfortable as possible.

A PAC appointment is offered to assess your health and to ensure that you are as fit as possible for your anaesthetic. If you have any pre-existing conditions, advice will be given to ensure that these are well managed before and during surgery.

WHY SHOULD I ATTEND?

The advantages are:

- Blood tests, x-rays etc. can be done and results checked. Documentation can be completed prior to admission, reducing the chance of your operation being cancelled.
- Reduces the length of your hospital stay.
- Allows you to discuss anaesthetic options with the nursing staff and an anaesthetist if you wish. Help ease any anxieties and answer any questions you may have.
- Gives you a point of contact should you have any questions at a later date.
- Referrals to any other specialists who need to know of your surgery can be made early.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN?

The pre-assessment nurse will discuss your health questionnaire with you. The nurse will then examine you and check your heart and lungs and order any tests that may be required.

WHAT TESTS WILL I HAVE?

Basic observations will be recorded, such as blood pressure, pulse and ECG. You may have to have blood tests and a chest x-ray. These are all routine tests. Other tests may be ordered if your health requires it.

CAN I BRING SOMEONE WITH ME?

We encourage you to bring a family member or friend with you.



HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE?

The assessment will take approximately an hour plus time for blood tests, x-rays etc. If you want or need to speak to an anaesthetist, this will also add to the time. The anaesthetic clinic is available in the afternoon. If you are unable to stay, a further appointment will be made for you. Please make appropriate arrangements for child-care, work commitments etc.

HOW CAN I PREPARE FOR A PRE-ADMISSION ASSESSMENT?

You may have a number of questions you want to ask. Over the next few days, write them down and bring them with you to your appointment.

IMPORTANT

Please bring along with you all the medications you are currently taking, both prescription and non-prescription.

