

PATIENT SCENARIO:

General Surgery (Emergency)

What is Emergency General Surgery?

General surgery relates to conditions of the abdomen; specifically the digestive system or gastrointestinal (GI) system.

In hospital care there are specialists who look after the either the 'upper' part of the gut or the 'lower' part of the gut – also known as Upper GI and Lower GI (Colorectal).

Emergency General Surgery includes urgent treatment of both the upper and lower gut.

There are some instances of cross over between the two specialist teams; for example both sub-specialty teams provide the emergency general surgery service.

What is our preferred option?

Our preferred option is for Emergency General Surgery to be centralised at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital.



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What would this mean for patients?

Aaleyah is 41 years old. She lives in Gloucester.

Aaleyah comes into A&E at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital with severe stomach pain spreading towards her right shoulder. She is seen by the Upper GI consultant on call, who orders tests, including bloods and an ultrasound scan. The tests reveal that Aaleyah has acute cholecystitis, an inflammation of the gall bladder, in this case caused by gallstones.

She needs an operation to remove her gallbladder, so she is admitted to a ward where she is treated with antibiotics and pain killers before being operated on the next day by an upper GI surgeon. She is able to go home after five days in hospital.

What are the benefits?

Aaleyah was able to be seen quickly by the right specialist for her condition.

Access to a dedicated theatre for urgent general surgery cases meant that Aaleyah was able to stay in hospital for a short time until after her operation, rather than going home and being put on a waiting list for surgery at a later date. What would this mean for patients?

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