

PATIENT SCENARIO:

General Surgery (Planned)

What is Planned 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).

What is our preferred option?

Our preferred option is:

- Planned Lower GI (Colorectal) surgery would be at either Cheltenham General Hospital or Gloucestershire Royal Hospital.
- General Surgery Day Cases would be at Cheltenham General Hospital.

No change is proposed for planned Upper GI surgery which would remain at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital.



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What would this mean for patients?

Harry is a 40 year old builder who noticed a sudden pain in his groin when lifting at work. Over the next few days he noticed a swelling or lump around his groin which became more obvious and sore if he coughed, sneezed or did any lifting.

Harry made an appointment with his GP who diagnosed an inguinal hernia, when fatty tissue or a part of the bowel pokes through into the groin at the top of your inner thigh. The GP referred him to the General Surgical team at Cheltenham General Hospital.

He was able to select an appointment with a specialist at North Cotswolds Community Hospital, which was near to his home. After an examination, they decided that surgery was the best option for Harry, and that this would be done via 'keyhole.'

Harry has his operation at the designated day surgery unit at Cheltenham General Hospital. Before being sent home later that day he was reviewed and given advice not to do any heavy lifting for six weeks.

What are the benefits?

The dedicated day case unit at Cheltenham General Hospital means that Harry was able to have his operation quickly, without experiencing any cancellations.

Staff were able to take time to review Harry before he left hospital, giving him self-care advice so that he knew how to look after himself while he recovers from the operation.

