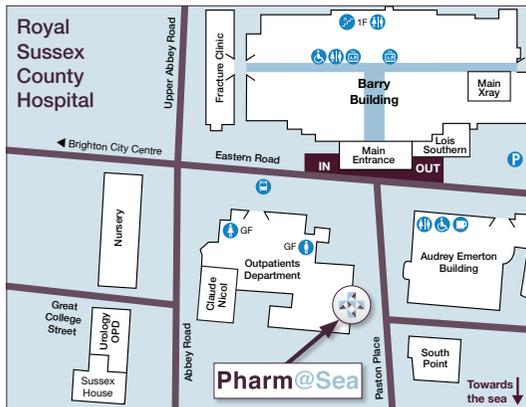


What happens next?

You may be in the unit for several hours, and the length of time depends on the tests requested. On admission to SAU all patients are asked not to eat or drink anything until a plan of care has been made. If this is going to take a long time then fluids may be given through the cannula in your arm. The nurse in the unit will inform you when you can eat and drink.

If the doctor has determined that you need to stay in hospital you will be transferred to a bed on a ward. Sometimes there are delays in this process and if you have any issues, please speak to the nurse working in the unit.

If the Doctor has determined you can go home they may write a prescription for some medication they wish you to take. This can be acquired from Pham@sea by outpatients on Eastern road.



If you have any problems or are worried, please do not hesitate to contact us on the unit: **01273 696955 Ext.7591**

If you do not understand this leaflet, we can arrange for an interpreter.

إذا كنت لا تستطيع فهم محتويات هذه النشرة فيمكننا عمل الترتيبات لتوفير مترجم شفوي لك.

এই প্রচারপুস্তিকাটি যদি আপনি বুঝতে না পারেন, তবে আপনার জন্য আমরা একজন অনুবাদকের ব্যবস্থা করে দিতে পারি।

如果你不明白本單張的內容，我們可安排口譯員服務。

如果你不明白本傳單的內容，我們可安排口譯員服務。

اگر مندرجات این جزوه را نمیفهمید، ما می‌توانیم مترجم در اختیارتان بگذاریم.

Jeśli masz trudności w zrozumieniu tej ulotki, możemy zorganizować tłumacza.

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Disclaimer

The information in this leaflet is for guidance purposes only and is in no way intended to replace professional clinical advice by a qualified practitioner.

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Surgical Assessment Unit

Patient Information Leaflet

What is the Surgical Assessment Unit?

The SAU provides a specialised service for the rapid assessment and treatment of a variety of surgical complications covering 5 specialties:

- General Surgery
- Urology
- Orthopaedics
- ENT (Ears, Nose and Throat)
- Vascular

Once you have been assessed a decision will be made to admit you to an appropriate surgical ward, treat on the unit itself, or discharge home.

Where is the unit?

We are situated on level 5 of the Tower block behind Accident and Emergency. Telephone **01273 696955 Ext. 7591**

What is the referral process?

We take referrals direct from General Practitioners who are concerned about your health and feel you need to be seen by a speciality Doctor in hospital. The GP will speak to one of our Doctors/ Surgeons about your presenting condition therefore we will be expecting your arrival. We also take direct referrals from the emergency department, specialist nurses and outpatient clinics.

What will happen when you arrive on the unit?

When you arrive on the unit you will be greeted by our team of senior surgical nurses and health care assistants who will check your details and carry out

- Blood pressure
- Temperature, pulse and breathing
- A urine sample
- Blood will be taken for various tests

You will be asked questions about your previous medical history, any treatment you are currently having and what has brought you into hospital this time.

You may have a fine tube called a cannula placed in your arm in case you need to be given fluid or medications for pain through your vein. You may need other types of investigations, such as X-rays or scans.

These investigations will help the doctor decide whether you need to be admitted to a ward bed or may be discharged home. We endeavour to keep your waiting time to a minimum and for you to see a Doctor or Surgeon within 2 hours of arriving on the unit. However in busy times they need to prioritise emergencies so there may be a delay.

The Doctor will run through your symptom history, results of tests you have undergone and examine you on a trolley then decide:

- You are medically fit and able to go home
- Arrange a follow-up appointment at the Unit
- Ask you to contact the unit for results
- Refer you to another speciality
- Refer you to your GP
- Refer you for surgery at a later date
- Refer you to an outpatient clinic
- Admit you to a surgical ward for an operation or observation.

We would like to reassure you that safeguarding your privacy and dignity is a high priority for all our staff. On occasions on SAU there will be both male and female patients for short periods of time whilst they are being assessed by the Surgical team. During these periods we will ensure your privacy and dignity is maintained and the curtains will be kept closed around your bed side. If however, you would prefer to keep the curtains open, then please do so. If you have any anxieties regarding this type of accommodation, please let the nurse know who is responsible for your care.

At times the assessment unit can be a busy area and a trolley may not be available. If this is the case, you may have to wait in the Assessment Unit Waiting Area.