

## Your GP has recommended referral for an operation. What happens next?

**West Hertfordshire NHS Trust is committed to improving the patient journey.  
West Hertfordshire NHS Trust is working towards achieving the 18 week target (GP referral to admission for treatment) as set by the Department of Health.**

### Steps in the patient pathway

- GP referral to hospital Consultant surgeon
- An out patient appointment will be made to see the surgical team.
- If surgery is recommended, then you will be asked to attend for a pre operative assessment – this is to determine your fitness for surgery.
- Every effort will be made to provide the pre operative assessment on the same day as the out patient visit.
- Please bring all medication and prescription with you when you attend for the outpatient and pre operative assessment appointments.
- If you are fit for surgery, an admission date will be advised in writing.
- The majority of patients are admitted on the day of surgery.

### Useful information regarding the 18 week pathway.

The NHS Plan (2000) set out a vision of a service designed around the patient. By 2008 no one will wait longer than 18 weeks from GP referral to hospital treatment. The 18 week clock starts at referral from your GP, and continues throughout your outpatients visit and ends on commencement of treatment.

Further information is available on : [www.18weeks.nhs](http://www.18weeks.nhs).