How do I find the Theatre Admissions Unit (TAU)?

The unit is located on E Floor of the Huntsman Wing at the Northern General Hospital.

To find the unit, come into the hospital grounds through either the Barnsley Road or Herries Road entrances. Once you are in the hospital grounds:

1. Follow the red signs for the main Huntsman Building
2. Enter through the main entrance on C Floor (entrance 3)
3. Go through the reception area to the first set of lifts and up to E Floor
4. The entrance to TAU is straight ahead of you

Is there a car park?

There is limited pay and display parking available around the hospital site. If you are coming to hospital by car, please allow yourself time to find a parking space.

Please ask your relative or friend to speak to our reception staff about parking when arranging to collect you after surgery.

Where do I go when I arrive?

You will need to report to TAU reception at the time stated on your letter. Please note that the unit doesn’t open until 7:00am and closes at 8:00pm. If you choose to arrive before this time there is limited seating outside TAU, alternatively seating is available in the main entrance on C Floor.

If you wish, you may be accompanied by a friend, relative or carer, though please note we have limited waiting facilities so only one visitor is allowed per bedside. TAU is also a recovery area and therefore not suitable for young children or babies. If you have children we recommend that alternative childcare arrangements are made for the day of your surgery.
What time will my operation take place?

Please be aware that your admission time is not the time when you will go into theatre. Full information relating to your position on the theatre list will be discussed when you arrive. We do try to offer staggered admission times so you aren’t kept waiting where possible, but in some cases there may be extended waiting times.

What should I bring?

You should bring **minimal** property for an overnight stay (even if you are only a day case patient). Please leave any valuables at home or with a relative. Following surgery we will take your belongings to the post-operative ward or alternatively relatives are welcome to take responsibility for them. You will be expected to sign a disclaimer accepting responsibility for your own property.

Please ensure that any medications are labelled and kept with your belongings. Please remember to bring a dressing gown and slippers.

Visiting arrangements

TAU adopts an open visiting policy but we do encourage relatives or friends to wait in our reception area once you have gone into theatre.

Refreshments for visitors aren’t available within the TAU reception area but can be located close by on C Floor of the Huntsman building. Out of respect for patients fasting for theatre we ask that visitors do not consume food or drink within TAU.

Discharge arrangements

If you are having day surgery with sedation or under a general/spinal anaesthetic you need to ensure that a responsible adult is with you for the first 24 hours post-surgery and that they escort you home as well. You will need to make your own transport arrangements for your discharge unless pre-arranged by the hospital in advance. For some local anaesthetic procedures (without sedation), you are free to leave unaccompanied. Please speak to a member of staff beforehand to check.

On discharge you will be given clear discharge and wound care advice, including any follow-up appointments. You will be given contact details for TAU in case of queries within the first 24 hours, after this time you will be directed to your GP or NHS 111.

We aim to transfer you to the discharge lounge as soon as you are ready for discharge. This will help the ward admit the next patient in a timely manner so they can receive the care they require.

Can my relative/friend call to find out when I am ready to be collected?

Your relative or friend is welcome to contact the unit or post-operative ward for further details. The relevant telephone number can be obtained from the nursing staff or TAU reception on arrival.

For further information please refer to the Northern General Inpatient Guide
http://publicdocuments.sth.nhs.uk/pil1320.pdf

Alternative formats can be available on request. Email: alternativeformats@sth.nhs.uk

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