



Excellence in short stay surgery


GUIDELINES FOR DAY-CASE SURGERY 2019



Association of Anaesthetists

RCOA
Royal College of Anaesthetists



1 

Thorough anaesthetist-led, nurse-delivered pre-anaesthetic assessment and preparation, as well as protocol-driven discharge, are fundamental to safe and effective day surgery.

2 


Fitness for a procedure should relate to the patient's functional status rather than ASA physical status.

3 

It is possible to undertake most surgery in adults and children as day cases.

4 

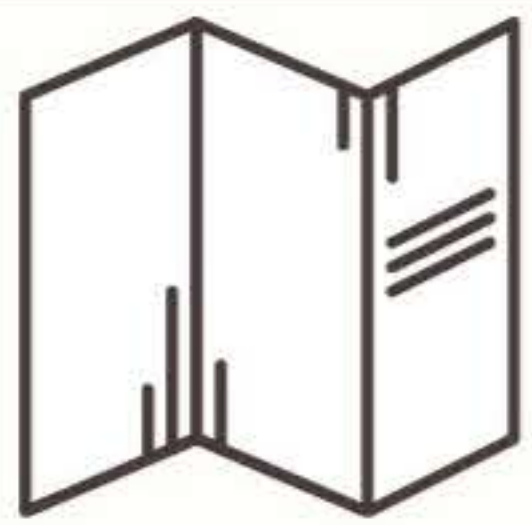
All day surgery units should have a clinical lead whose responsibilities include the development of local policies, guidelines and clinical governance.

5 

All anaesthetists should be familiar with techniques that permit the patient to undergo a procedure with minimum stress and maximum comfort in order to enable early discharge, including regional nerve blocks and neuraxial blockade, such as spinal anaesthesia.

6 

All members of the multidisciplinary team should be trained in day surgery practice.

7 

High-quality, age-appropriate advice leaflets, assessment forms and protocols for specific procedures should be in place.

8 

Day surgery should take place within a dedicated unit or area within the main hospital site.

9 

Quality assurance and improvement programmes are an essential component of good care in all aspects of day surgery.

Bailey CR, Ahuja M, Bartholomew K et al. Guidelines for day-case surgery 2019. *Anaesthesia* 2019; 74: 778-792.

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Correspondence

1011 Correspondence: Dr Bailey, CR, Ahuja M, Bartholomew K et al. Guidelines for day-case surgery 2019. *Anaesthesia* 2019; 74: 778-792.

Review Article

1012 Review Article: Day-case surgery for paediatric patients: a systematic review

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1013 Editorial Board: Dr Bailey, CR, Ahuja M, Bartholomew K et al.

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