



SURGICAL PATHWAY

your

This surgical pathway tells you more about what happens when you have cardiac surgery. Your team may first talk to you about this in your local clinic and then refer you to The Bristol Heart Institute, which is the specialist centre for adult congenital cardiac surgery in South Wales and the South West.



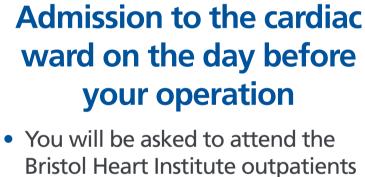
clinic to meet the surgeon • You will receive an appointment to

- meet your cardiac surgeon. There are three congenital surgeons who operate on adults born with heart conditions. • The surgeon will explain your
- heart condition to you and explain how it can be repaired. Diagrams or picture may be used to help with this. The post-operative recovery will be explained and the risks of surgery will be discussed. You may be asked to sign your consent at this appointment or
- this may be done the night before your operation.



summarising your meeting with the surgeon and a copy will go to your GP. A copy will also go to

- your referring cardiologist, if you are seen in one of the peripheral or outreach clinics. • When there is a date for surgery you will receive a letter inviting you to come to pre-assessment at The Bristol Heart Institute.



for a pre-operative meeting with

consent with one of the surgical

an anaesthetist.

CARDIAC WARD

team at this appointment, if this was not done when you met the surgeon.

You may discuss and sign your

to help you relax.



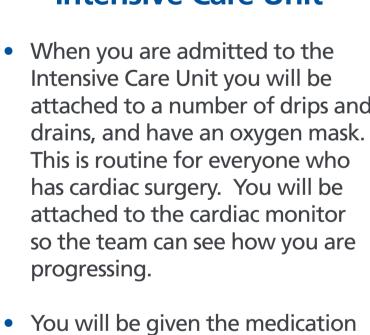


When you are clinically stable the equipment will be removed. You will be moved out of the Intensive Care Unit and will be helped to sit out of bed as soon as

you need, including painkillers to

keep you comfortable.

you are well enough.

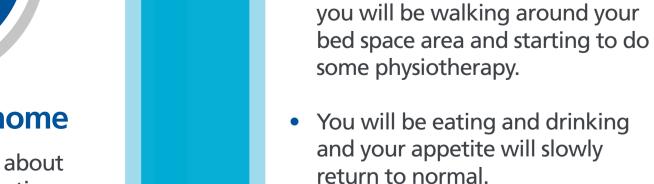


CARDIAC WARD

Transfer to the

Cardiac Ward

By the time you are on the ward,



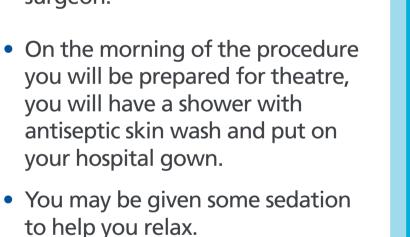
days after their operation. If it is your second or third operation your stay is likely to be slightly

shower and you can get dressed.

On average people go home 6-7

You will be helped into the

longer.





after your first post-operative appointment and your next follow-up will be with your local cardiologist. • A letter will be written to summarise the care you have had in the Bristol Heart Institute and the plan for your ongoing care. You will be seen again by

appropriate time, depending on your progress.

your local cardiologist or back at the Bristol Heart Institute at an

