

For other enquiries related to your surgery, please contact the relevant Surgical Liaison Nurse:

Orthopaedic Surgery:
03 9288 3885

Orthopaedic Surgery (ESAS):
03 9288 4706

Plastic and Hand Surgery:
03 9288 3883

Ear, Nose and Throat Surgery:
03 9288 2755

Neurosurgery:
03 9288 3884

Colorectal Surgery and Endoscopy:
03 9288 2322

Hepatobiliary or Breast and Endocrine Surgery:
03 9288 2401

Urology Surgery and Cystoscopy:
03 9288 3881

Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery:
03 9288 4853

If you are not able to attend your appointment, please contact your Elective Surgery Liaison Nurse on the numbers provided or the PMU Clinical Nurse Coordinator on 03 9288 4233.

Peri-operative Medicine Unit
Department of General Internal Medicine
Level 5
Main Hospital
41 Victoria Parade
Fitzroy 3065

Phone: 03 9288 4233
Fax: 03 9288 3789



Peri-operative Medicine Unit (PMU)

An information guide for elective surgery patients

The PMU Clinic

The PMU (Peri-operative Medicine Unit) clinic is a specialist medical clinic specifically designed to look after patients who are having surgery at St Vincent's.

It is led by a team of doctors called physicians who are highly trained medical specialists. The doctors you will see at the clinic are peri-operative physicians and their speciality area is to help assess and prepare patients for surgery.

Why have I been referred to the PMU Clinic?

You have been referred to this clinic to discuss your medical risks and the best management of your condition to enable you to proceed to surgery.

Your surgical team has referred you for further medical assessment and/or testing. You will not be considered medically ready to have your surgery until you are assessed.

What does this mean for my surgery plan?

While you are undergoing assessment and management by the physicians you are not eligible to be offered a date for surgery.

This still means you:

- remain on the waiting list for surgery
- will receive a letter in the mail to inform you that you are 'NRFC' – not yet ready for care.

How important is it that I come?

The surgeons and physicians work together as a team to prepare you for surgery so it is very important that you do not miss this appointment.

St Vincent's elective surgery staff are not able to offer you a date for surgery until you attend this clinic appointment and are medically cleared to proceed with surgery.

Please note, the PMU clinic staff are only able to provide very limited information about your waiting times for surgery so please direct these questions to your waiting list team or surgical liaison nurse.

What do I need to bring to this appointment?

You should bring the following to your appointment:

- a list of current medications
- any medical test results you have such as heart or breathing tests that the physician may need to look at
- contact details and names of any other medical specialists who are looking after you and details of upcoming appointments with them
- a family member, friend or advocate you would like to attend with you (this is important as instructions will be given regarding things such as medication)
- any other details that might be important such as past medical procedures or pacemaker/defibrillator details
- a list of any questions you have.

What happens at the appointment?

The physician will take your medical history, examine you and write a specific medical plan which your surgical team will be guided by. The physician will also tell you if you are medically ok to have surgery, if you need further tests done or more time to be medically prepared before your surgery.

You will be given instructions on the day of your clinic visit which might include medication plans or things you will need to do on your day of surgery. St Vincent's staff will go over this again when they call you with a date for surgery.

Please ensure you bring an advocate or family member to the appointment if you think this might help you remember the information you are given at clinic.

Every effort is made to minimise your travel to St Vincent's for this assessment so, where possible, any tests you might need are organised before you come so results are available on the day.

Will my GP know about my clinic visit?

After you visit the PMU clinic, the physician will send a letter to:

- your surgical team
- your GP
- any other specialists involved in your care to keep them up to date with your progress.