

FAQ: Where will I have my operation?

The opening of the new Chase Farm Hospital later this year has given us a fantastic opportunity to use our hospitals in a different way to deliver world class care to our patients.

A key opportunity we have is to change the way we use operating theatres across our hospitals to improve care. To do this, over the next few months we'll be bringing our specialist teams even closer together to perform operations. This will give our patients the best care and experience for the type of treatment they need.

What is changing?

We will be moving some of our elective (planned) surgical work to Chase Farm Hospital. This will help us to free up space at Barnet Hospital for medical and surgical emergencies and at the Royal Free Hospital for specialist services. These changes will help us use our facilities and staff in the most effective and efficient way.

Chase Farm Hospital will be the main location for elective surgery for the following services:

- orthopaedics
- ear, nose and throat
- maxillofacial
- general surgery
- gynaecology

The Royal Free Hospital will be the main location for specialist surgery, for example breast, vascular, colorectal, plastics and transplant surgery.

What does this mean for you?

Patients who need an operation will have their surgery at the best hospital for their needs – this means you may have your operation at a different hospital to where you have your out-patient appointment or follow-up care. If you have other medical conditions, these will be carefully considered when deciding which hospital is the most appropriate location for your operation.

At your pre-assessment appointment, the nurse will tell you where you will be having your operation – you'll also receive an admissions letter confirming the full details of your operation, including the date, location and instructions you need to follow.

If you've already been given a date and location for your surgery, we'll get in touch with you directly by phone or letter if the location of your operation changes.

How will this benefit me?

As part of the change, we'll be bringing our specialist teams even closer together to perform operations. This will give our patients the best care and experience for the type of treatment they need.

I am also under the care of other specialties

If you have other medical conditions relevant to you undergoing an operation, these will be carefully considered when deciding which of our hospitals is the most appropriate site for your operation.

I have an out-patient appointment already booked – will the location of this change?

No, out-patient appointments will continue to be provided at your local hospital.

Where will I have my follow-up appointment?

Your follow-up care will also be at your local hospital and you will be under the care of the same team.

When will these changes start?

We've started moving some surgery to Chase Farm Hospital already and over the next few months more moves will be taking place. You'll be advised during your consultation, by phone or by letter where you will have your operation.