

Information for patients going  
to University Hospital of North Staffordshire (UHNS) for  
Vascular Procedures, Special Investigations or Surgery

## **Before surgery**

There have been changes in the way vascular surgery and vascular procedures (angioplasty or stents) are provided locally. If you require surgery, a procedure or certain tests, you will have your treatment at University Hospital of North Staffordshire (UHNS) in Stoke-On-Trent.

You will be seen as an outpatient at Leighton Hospital or at the Victoria Infirmary, Northwich as usual, and if necessary, booked for surgery. Some cases, such as varicose vein operations are done at Leighton Hospital as day cases. However, for the majority of patients, the need for surgery or angioplasty will mean going to UHNS.

You will receive a pre-operative assessment appointment before your surgery to ensure you are as fit as possible and to have blood tests and swabs taken. This will be at Leighton Hospital, even if your surgery is at UHNS. You may, however, need to go to UHNS in the week before your operation to have a blood test to cross-match blood. This cannot be done at Leighton Hospital if your surgery is at UHNS.

If you need pre-operative investigations such as lung function tests or a scan of the heart, these can usually be done at Leighton Hospital. Some more specialised scans, such as some heart scans, can only be done at UHNS. If you need such a scan, the appointment will be at UHNS.

## **At UHNS**

You are most likely to be admitted on the morning of your surgery or procedure to Ward 105 in the Lyme Building.

If your procedure is a day case, you will go back to Ward 105 (see site map 2) and then home.

If you are staying in you are likely to be admitted to Ward 106 - male or Ward 107 - female (see site map 3) after your operation. These are the vascular surgery wards in the Lyme Building.

If you are having an aneurysm repair, carotid surgery or a leg bypass you will go to the Surgical Special Care Unit (SSCU) following surgery as part of your post-operative care for 24-48 hours.

## After Surgery

Your follow-up appointments and any scans you need will normally be at Leighton Hospital, although some specialised follow-up scans may need to be done at UHNS.

## Getting to UHNS

Normally you need to make your own way to UHNS at your own expense. This is standard NHS policy.

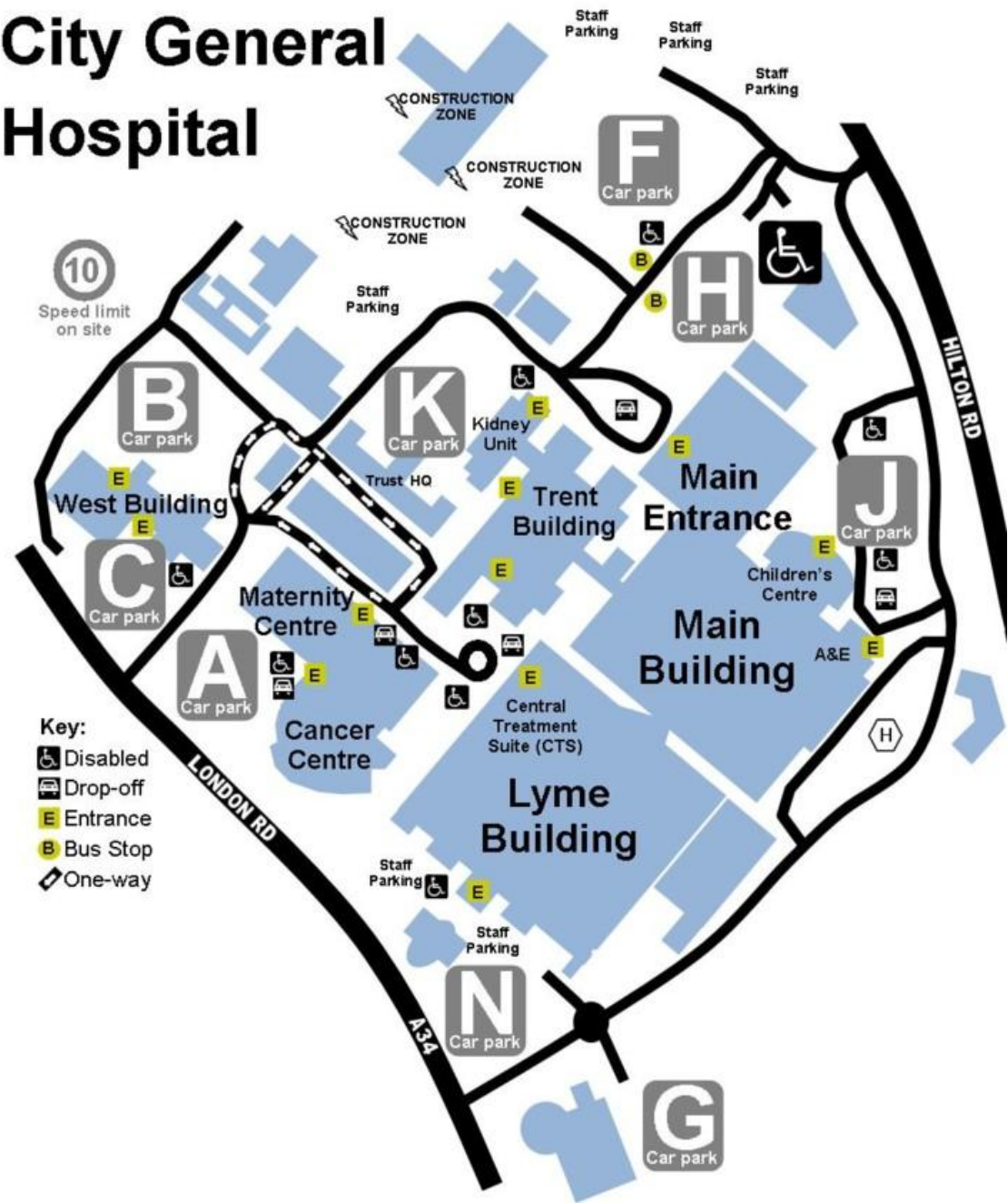
If you need to have a blood test for cross-match in the week before your surgery, the pre-assessment nurse will give you a map and directions for where to go.

## Directions to UHNS

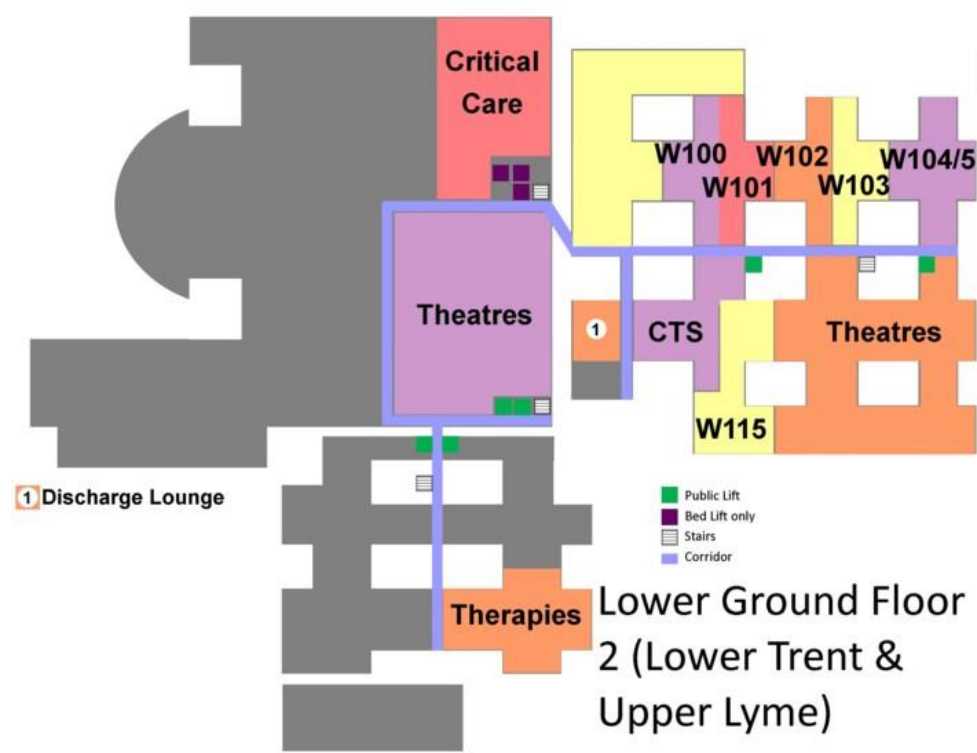


Site maps of UHNS

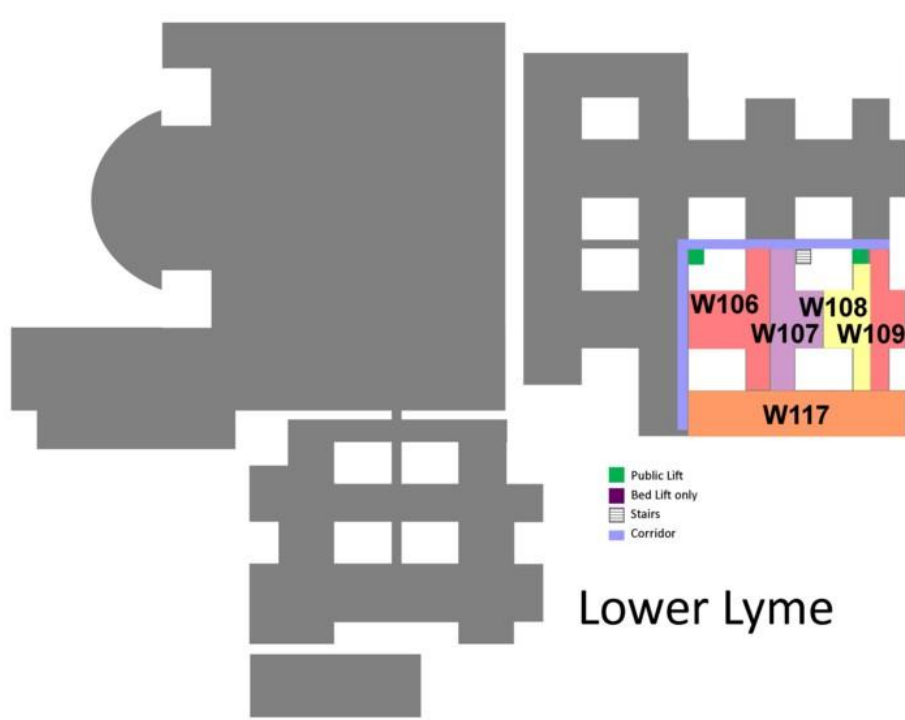
Site map 1



Site map 2



Site map 3



## Car parking

**Lyme Building** - Patients attending the Lyme Building should use car parks G & N. This is a pay and display car parks. Parking can be difficult at busy times, such as afternoon visiting times. Allow plenty of time to find a space and ask a parking attendant if you are having difficulties.

Those patients with blue badges can use disabled bays located outside each building entrance. Blue Badge holders are subject to parking charges.

### Car parking charges as follows:

Time	Tariff
up to 1 hour	£1.50
1 - 2 hours	£2.50
2 - 3 hours	£3.50
3 - 4 hours	£5.00
4 - 8 hours	£6.00
8 - 24 hours	£8.00

## Public transport

Bus routes in the area change relatively frequently, so it is best to check the Traveline website for up to date information. The relevant area to search for is West Midlands. Traveline's telephone number is 0871 200 22 33.

If you are unable to travel by public transport or by car you can ask your local GP practice for help in arranging transport.

## Local NHS Ambulance Patient Transport

This provides access to transport for patients with a medical need, and where the medical need impacts on their mobility to such an extent that it prevents them from using other forms of transport.

A clinical need for treatment does not imply that you are eligible for NHS patient transport.

If you believe you have a requirement for patient transport on a medical/and or mobility need, please telephone **0800 032 32 40 (free phone)**.

To help provide a reliable service, please book your ambulance transport at least one full week in advance of your appointment.

When booking your ambulance transport you will need to explain your medical and mobility needs, as your eligibility to receive patient transport will be assessed against agreed eligibility criteria.

If any follow-up appointment/treatment is required, the ambulance **must** be booked by the clinic/ward.

Where possible **don't** accept appointment times before 9.30am or after 3.30pm. If you have a morning appointment we suggest you are ready from 8.30am and if you have an afternoon appointment, we suggest you are ready from 12.30pm. An escort may only accompany you if this escort is a professional or relative that can provide particular skills that cannot be provided by the patient transport staff or is recognised as the parent or guardian of an eligible child of under 16 years of age.

**Please be aware that you might not be the only patient travelling on that vehicle.**

## **Travelling Expenses**

Some people on low incomes are entitled to travel expenses. These are usually limited to public transport costs.

To be entitled to claim expenses you would normally need to be on:

- Pension Credit Guarantee Credit
- Tax Credit Exemption
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Employment and Support Allowance Notice (Income Based)

Claims must be made within 12 months of attending the hospital.

There are some other situations in which refunds for travelling expenses may be possible.

You need to make your claim, showing your income support or similar documentation, at the Cashier's Office at UHNS, not at Leighton Hospital. The Cashier's Office is on the first floor of the main (new) building. You will also need proof of your admission or appointment.

If you are not sure whether you are entitled to a refund, or need a form to apply by post for a refund, please ask for the relevant leaflet in the clinic, at your pre-assessment appointment or at the Cashier's Office at UHNS.

## Any Questions

We want your care before and after your procedure to run as smoothly as possible. If you have questions or concerns about any of your care or follow-up appointments, please contact Miss Corfield's or Mr Rajagopalan's secretaries at Leighton Hospital on 01270 612357 or 612055.

If your query is about the procedure date or admission to UHNS, please contact Miss Corfield's or Mr Rajagopalan's secretary at UHNS on 01278 679887.

This information is available in audio, Braille, large print and other languages. To request a copy, please ask a member of staff.

This information has been reviewed by the Readers' Panel December 2013.

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**NHS Choices:** [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

