



*VIDEO PRE-ANAESTHETIC
ASSESSMENT*

Patient Information Leaflet

You have been just scheduled for surgery. To reduce risks associated with surgery, and anaesthesia, you need to be assessed by an anaesthesiology doctor before your procedure. Pre-anaesthetic consultation is an important step. At this point you and your anaesthesiologist will discuss options and decide the best mode of anaesthesia for you. Failure to attend pre-anaesthetic assessment appointment might result in your surgery being cancelled.

Based on your medical history, your obstetrician/gynaecologist believes you could benefit from video consultation with the anaesthesiologist.

Why video anaesthetic consultation?

- To provide you with easier and convenient access to the anaesthetic clinic
- To decrease the need to take time off work to attend the clinic
- To reduce unnecessary contacts reducing the risk of COVID 19 transmission.

What is virtual (video) pre-anaesthetic assessment?

- It is a video consultation between you and your anaesthesiologist.
- It uses a technology called Cisco WebEx, supported by the HSE.

What is Cisco WebEx?

- It is an online video platform used for meetings and consultations
- It is supported by the HSE
- It works over the Internet so you will need Internet connection
- There is no additional cost to you apart from the Internet data. It uses the same amount of data as Skype or FaceTime.
- You can access the consultation from your mobile device, desktop computer or laptop. The device will need to have web-camera, microphone and speakers.
- Cisco WebEx supports the following browsers: Chrome, Chromium, Edge, Firefox, Internet Explorer, Safari.
- It is safe and secure. The end-to-end encryption stops anyone outside the conversation to hear or see what has been communicated. You have your own "private video room" that only your anaesthesiologist could enter
- As with all information transmitted across the internet, the security cannot be 100% assured all of the time, but it is more secure than a telephone call, sending an email or posting a letter, so we believe the benefits outweigh the risks

How to prepare before the consultation?

- You do not have to contact anyone to book an appointment. We will telephone you within 2 days after your last visit to your obstetrician/gynaecologist,
- We will explain the booking process, and ask if you agree to proceed with booking a virtual appointment. We will try to accommodate your time preferences but this would not always be possible.
- Cisco WebEx platform requires an email address to generate your virtual appointment.
- Your email would be used only to book a video anaesthetic consultation. You will receive a link via email, which would give you access to the virtual anaesthetic clinic at the appointed day and time.
- If you do not have/do not wish to provide your email, an alternative assessment option would be offered to you, which might include visiting the anaesthetic clinic in – person

Things to bear in mind on the appointment day

- You should log on and start your video call about 10 minutes before your appointment time.
- Use a well-lit area with adequate space however avoid pointing the device into direct sunshine or very bright light.
- Consider your environment; Be mindful of others and of your surroundings.
- Remember that the other participants can see you. Participate as if it was a face to face consultation.
- Avoid sitting in front of a window or transparent wall. People or other elements behind you can be distracting for participants.
- Do Not have any items with personal details in sight / at eye level
- Noise pollution; turn off TVs or radios etc
- Have someone on hand to support you should you need it.
- The consultation is confidential. If the anaesthesiologist need to discuss items related to your health, procedure or anaesthesia with other team members, he/she will request your permission
- Neither you nor the anaesthesiologist can take video or audio recordings of part or whole consultation
- The anaesthesiologist will take notes in your chart as with regular face-to face consultation
- The anaesthesiologist will perform a video examination of your head and neck movement, mouth opening, teeth and tongue.
- This is part of routine anaesthetic examination.
- The consultation is expected to last no longer than 15 minutes
- At the end of consultation, the anaesthesiologist will close the call. The system does not keep any record of the consultation.
- In some cases, based on the information obtained during video consultation, the anaesthesiologist might schedule an in-person appointment for more detailed examination or medical tests (bloods, ECG etc).