

Welcome to SAPU. SAPU is located in Ward 7 South pod F. It has two assessment beds, 8 short stay beds and a waiting room.

You have been admitted to the short stay area of SAPU from either your GP, the Emergency Department (ED) or the SAPU assessment bay. If you need to stay overnight, it is expected that you will stay in SAPU for less than 48 hours. If you need a longer stay you will be moved to one of the longer term wards.

SAPU waiting room

This waiting area has 4 armchairs. You may be asked to wait here before and/or after your assessment. Whilst you are waiting we will gather results from additional tests (blood, urine or scans). When these results are available they will be discussed with you. A decision will then be made as to whether you need to be admitted or whether you can go home.

A separate information sheet giving more will be available when you arrive in SAPU. Information can be also found on the posters on the wall.

General Information

- **Call Bell**-If you need a nurse use the green call button on your handset
- **Visiting hours** are 8am-9pm, please ask your nurse if you need to have visitors outside the standard visiting hours for any special reason.
- **Access to SAPU** is by the orange lifts to level 7 south.
- **Smoking**- all of CCDHB is a smoke free site inside and outside. We can offer support to quit through our smoking cessation service. Please ask your nurse if you are interested

- **Overnight facilities**- There are no overnight stay facilities on SAPU for the family of the patient. Please see the nursing staff if an overnight stay is required, or if you live out of the area.

What other procedures may be required?

X-ray -you may be required to have an x-ray in the radiology department- sometimes for this you need to have a contrast drink to improve the image that is being x-rayed.

Computed Tomography Scan (CT) – Is medical imaging that can give a more detailed image than an X-ray. When you have a CT scanning you must have had nothing to eat for 6 hours and no fluid for 2 hours. You may be asked to drink 2 or 3 glasses of a solution to help improve the image being scanned. If this is needed your nurse will give you this before your procedure. If you need to have a CT scan more detailed information.

Ultrasound scan (USS) –Ultrasound is a safe and painless procedure that doesn't use X-rays. High-frequency sound waves and their echoes are used to create images (or scans) of the inside of your body. The images are black, white and grey and are usually displayed on a TV screen. Sometimes you will need to have a full bladder or not eat before your USS. The staff will tell you if this applies to you.

Operating Theatre (OT) –If you need to have an operation your doctor will give you a full explanation and answer your questions. Before going to the operating theatre you will be seen by an anaesthetist. This may be in SAPU or in the theatre department holding bay before going into theatre. If you have an operation you will not

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return to SAPU. You will go to either Second Stage Recovery (SSR) or one of the other wards. Your belongings will be taken there while you are in OT.

What happens on discharge from SAPU?

When you are discharged your discharge paper work and prescription (if necessary) will be ready for you. If you need a medical certificate please ask your nurse or doctor.

Make sure that before you leave the hospital you have a full understanding the new medication prescribed (when to take it and for how long, etc.) and of follow up plans and appointments, if applicable. Your nurse or doctor can clarify both to you.

The expected time of discharge at Wellington Hospital is 11am. If you are not able to be collected until after 11am there is a transit lounge where you will be able to wait. Your nurse will direct you to it.

What if I need to stay in hospital longer than 48 hours?

If you are unable to be discharged from SAPU after 48hrs you will usually be transferred to Ward 7 North (general surgical ward) located at the opposite end of the corridor or Ward 6 North (urology and orthopaedic). These are both 44 bed wards for patients who have undergone surgery or patients who require a longer hospital stay.

I am discharged and I still have some unanswered questions or on-going symptoms?

When you are discharged from SAPU you may be given a 'blue card'. This has SAPU contact details on it. If you have any unanswered questions you can contact the SAPU to speak to a nurse. If you have any further questions, or on-going symptoms and want to see a doctor please go to the emergency department taking the 'blue card' with

you. The emergency staff will contact SAPU and will be transferred back to SAPU (when possible) and you will not have to wait longer in the emergency department. This card is valid for 48 hours.

If you have not been given a 'blue card' or have medical questions not related to your recent visit to SAPU your first point of contact is your General Practitioner or in case of an emergency, the Emergency Department.

Contact us

Surgical Assessment & Planning Unit (SAPU)

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