

Major Procedures Checklist

Major procedures might include open arterial surgery, and aneurysm repair (minimal invasive or open surgery).

- Please advise your doctor if you have had COVID in the last 7 weeks.

- If you are on the strong blood thinners Rivaroxaban (Xarelto), Apixaban (Eloquis) or Predaxa (Dabigatran), they need to be stopped 48 hours prior to your procedure.

- If you are on the strong blood thinner Warfarin, this must be stopped 7 days prior to your procedure. Should you have been prescribed injections with Clexane in the intervening period between stopping Warfarin and the operation, these should be stopped 48 hours before the operation.

- If you take mild blood thinners, such as aspirin, they should be continued. Clopidogrel (Plavix) will need to be stopped for most major open surgery, however, exceptions apply. Please double-check with Dr Ritter.

- If you are a diabetic who is taking metformin, this should be stopped the day before the procedure. If you have kidney problems this medication should also be withheld for 48 hours after your procedure if you had any dye injected (angiogram).

- If you are on diabetic medications that contain dapagliflozin or empagliflozin (Forxiga, Qtern, Xigduo XR, Jardiance, Jardimet or Glyxambi) these need to be stopped 3 days prior to your procedure and may be withheld for up to 4 days afterwards.

- The anaesthetist will advise you on your insulin should you be taking that.

- Please take a shower the evening before the procedure and clean the areas where we will be cutting or inserting instruments through the skin. Ideally, you use chlorhexidine wash, which can be obtained at any chemist.

- Do not have any food or drinks after midnight before your procedure.

- Do not smoke after midnight before your procedure.

- Please ensure that you arrive at the hospital on time. The check-in process can be lengthy and it is important to prevent delays and avoid cancellations.

- After major surgery you will need to spend a few days in the hospital, so make sure you bring a good book for afterwards.

