

4 The emergency laparotomy patient perioperative journey



2 Sepsis management

If you have signs of sepsis you should receive antibiotics within one hour of arrival to hospital.



3 Radiology

Most patients will receive a CT scan as part of the initial assessment before surgery. This helps to establish the nature of your illness and guide what operation you will need.



4 Consultant review

Most patients will be seen by a consultant surgeon and anaesthetist prior to their operation. Any questions or concerns can be discussed. In the most unwell patients who need immediate surgery this discussion may take place with another member of the surgical or anaesthetic team in order to avoid a delay.



5 Risk assessment

The risk of death associated with emergency laparotomy surgery should be assessed and discussed with you before your operation. This enables you to be fully involved in any decisions regarding surgery and ensures that you receive the appropriate levels of care before, during and after your operation.



6 Timely admission to theatre

It is important that you have your operation in a timely fashion. How quickly you have your operation is dependent on why you need surgery. In some circumstances it may be appropriate to try alternative treatments first.



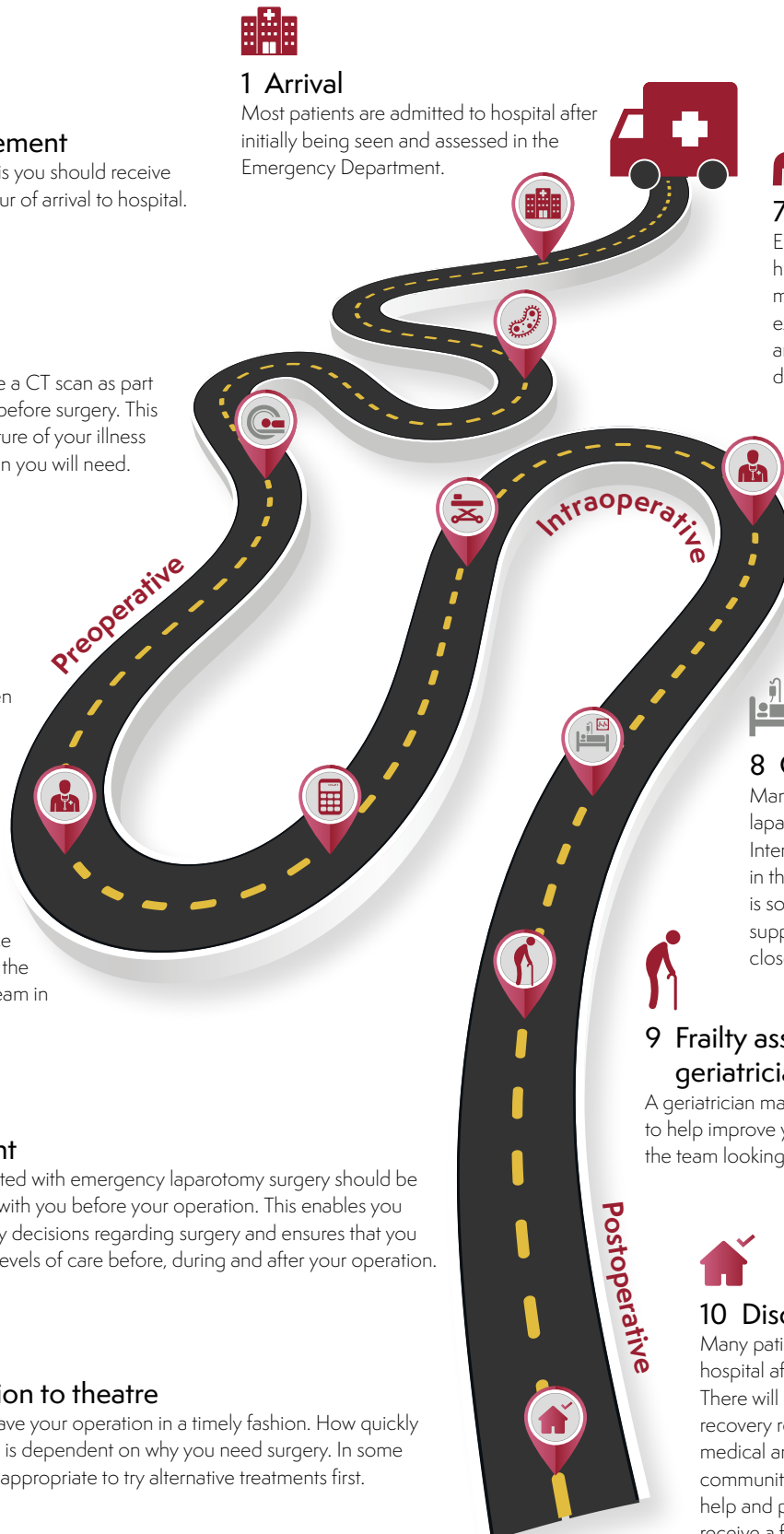
1 Arrival

Most patients are admitted to hospital after initially being seen and assessed in the Emergency Department.



7 Consultant presence

Emergency laparotomy is often high risk surgery. This means, that in most cases you will benefit from the expertise of a consultant anaesthetist and consultant surgeon will be required during your operation.



8 Critical care

Many patients who have an emergency laparotomy will be cared for in the Intensive Care or High Dependency Unit in the initial period after their surgery. This is so they can receive specialist organ support if necessary and be monitored closely for any possible complications.



9 Frailty assessment + geriatrician review

A geriatrician may review you during your hospital stay to help improve your recovery after surgery as part of the team looking after you.



10 Discharge and future recovery

Many patients will have had a long stay in hospital after an emergency laparotomy. There will often be an additional period of recovery required after discharge. The hospital medical and nursing teams, your GP and community nursing teams will be able to help and provide support. You should receive a follow up appointment with the surgical team.