

PATIENT INFORMATION

Information About Your Difficult Airway Card

You have been given a Difficult Airway Card following your recent anaesthetic. This is because your anaesthetist noted something about your airway that could potentially cause a problem if you were to have general anaesthetics in the future.

Please realise that this does not mean you have an illness such as a lung or breathing condition. It is most likely that this does not and will not affect your day to day life. The possible problem might only arise if you have a future anaesthetic.

The card gives details of what the anaesthetist found, and how they managed the situation. In addition they should have explained this to you personally in a way that you could understand. Showing this card to another anaesthetist should enable them to look after you more safely in the future.

Please carry the card with you at all times, and present it to the anaesthetist before any anaesthetic.

Your details will be kept in a database at Torbay Hospital. If doctors at another hospital need additional information they can always contact the Anaesthetic Department (tel. 01803 654310). The number is on the card. Likewise if you need to know more please do contact us.

For further assistance or to receive this information in a different format, please contact the department which created this leaflet.

Difficult Intubation Instructions

When faced with a patient who is difficult to intubate it is recommended that you follow these steps to ensure patient safety is not put at risk and that other anaesthetists are not faced with similar problems unknowingly.

1. Write a careful record on the anaesthetic chart with details of your level of experience, the intubation and airway problems and how you overcame them.
2. Tick the alert box on the front of the notes and enter brief details onto the 'allergies' section on the inside cover
3. Complete a difficult airway card (to be found by the photo copier in the department and in recovery) and take 2 copies.
4. Complete this page, giving this page to the anaesthetic secretaries and the below page for the patients GP.
5. Explain the issues that have arisen to the patient, preferably with a member of their family or a friend present.
6. Give the patient the:
 - Difficult Airway Card (laminated)
 - 'Information about your difficult airway card' leaflet
 - The other half of this page for the GP and a copy of the card for them to take to their GP

Give this page to the anaesthetic secretaries with a copy of the airway card. They will add the patient to our database, put an electronic tag on the patient's notes which will read 'Anaes alert diff intub' and then send the copy of the card to the patients notes.

Logo

Address

Date: _____

Patient Details:

Name:

Hospital Number:

DOB:

Dear Doctor

Your patient has been found to have an airway problem and has been given a difficult airway card. They have been advised to carry it with them and show it to an anaesthetist if they require surgery. The problem has been explained to them but it is often difficult to retain details over a long period of time. Details of the event have been recorded in their notes, which have been marked electronically and manually to flag up the problem on further admissions. We enclose a copy of the difficult intubation card given to the patient. Could you please put it in their notes for future reference.

If you or your patient has any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the anaesthetic department.

Best wishes, yours,

Name