

Your Heart Surgery Journey - after your operation

Information for patients



Easy Read

easy read



This booklet uses easy words and pictures.

You might need someone to help you understand it.

ICU



After you heart surgery you will go to the Intensive Care Ward.

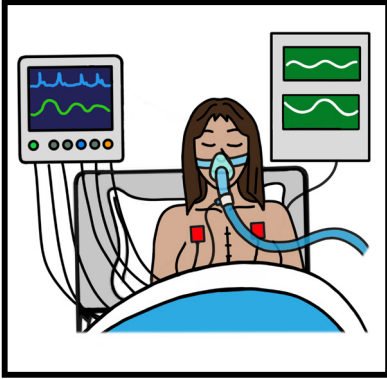
ICU



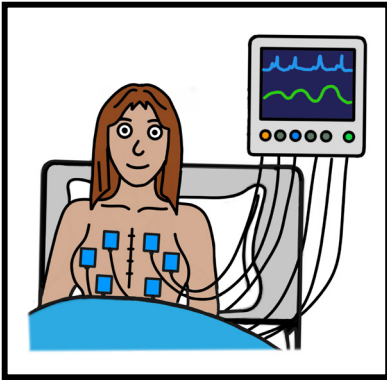
Your family, friends or care support staff can visit you on intensive care.

They will need to ring the ward to arrange visits.

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You will have some wires and machines attached to you to help your recovery.

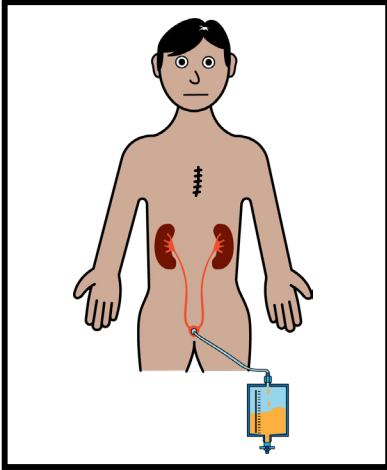


You will be attached to a heart monitor with stickers and wires on your chest.



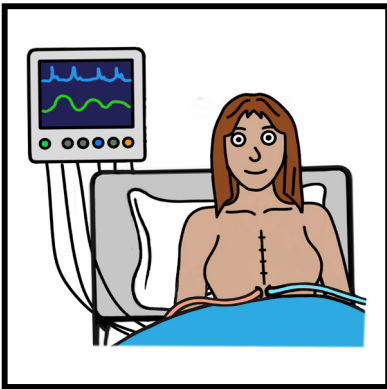
When you are still asleep from the operation a machine will help you breathe.

This will be removed when you wake up.



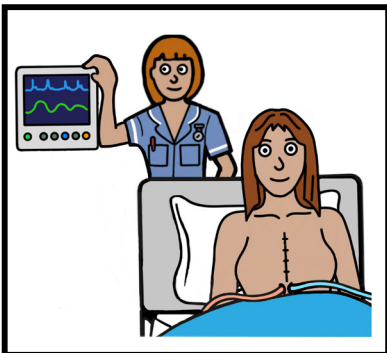
You will have a tube into your bladder that will drain your wee into a bag.

This is called a catheter.



You will have tubes coming out of your chest.

The tubes will help you to get better.

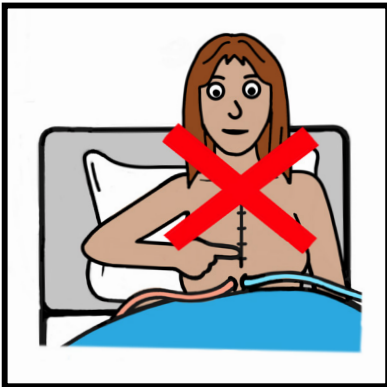


As you get better the doctors and nurses will start to remove the wires and machines.



You will have a wound down the middle of your chest.

This will be covered with a dressing.

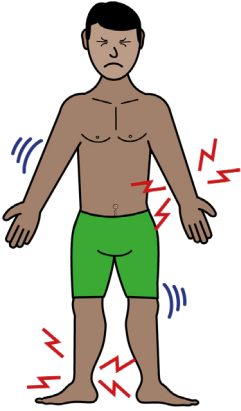


Do not touch any wounds, drains, drips or tubes.



The nurses will help you get washed and dressed.

sore

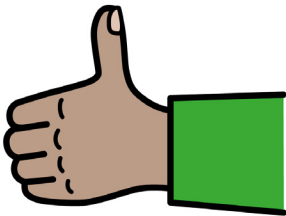


You may feel sore.

tired and unwell



You may feel very tired and unwell.

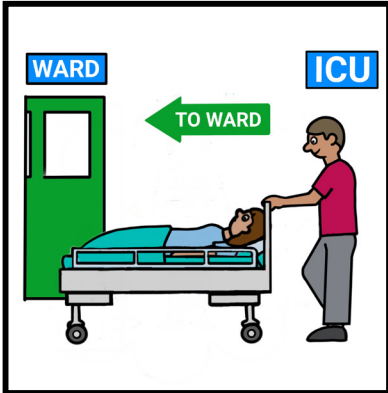


This is usual after heart surgery.

medicine



Doctors and nurses will support and give you medicines to try and make you feel better.



When you are ready you will leave intensive care and go back to the ward.

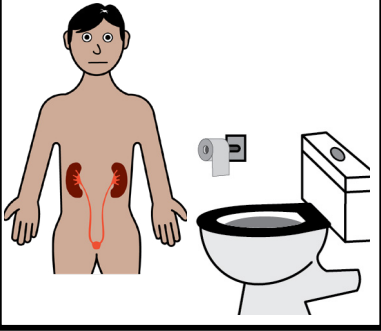
out of bed



When on the ward you can start to get up and out of bed.

This will help your recovery.

no catheter



The nurse will take your catheter out.



You will be supported by nurses, physiotherapist and occupational therapists as needed.

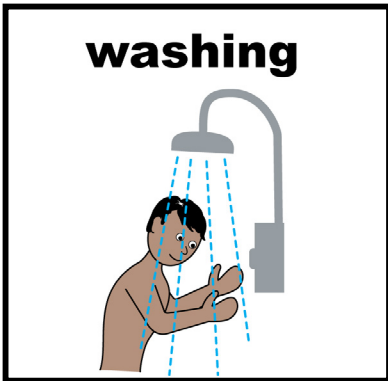
appropriate clothing



You can get dressed.



You can walk around
- with support if you need.

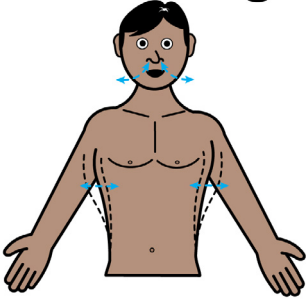


You can have a shower.



You can sit at a table to
eat your meals.

breathing



You will be told to do breathing exercises.

doctors



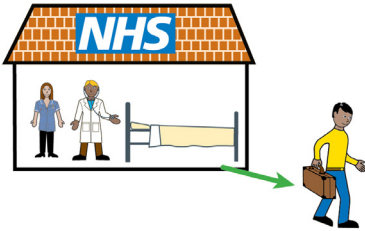
Doctors will see you everyday.

1 week

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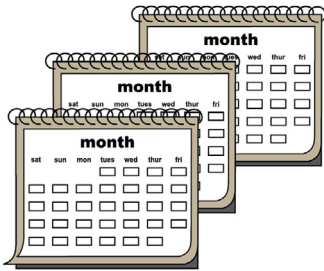
You will usually be in hospital for at least one week.

leave hospital

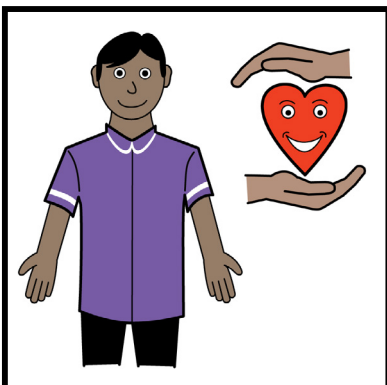


When you are ready you will go home you will continue your recovery at home.

months



This can take a few months.



Your Heart Nurse Specialist will come and see you to give you advice for when you are at home.

And arrange your next appointment.



What did you think of your care?

Scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/nhsleedsfft

Your views matter



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