**Introduction**

This leaflet is intended to provide you with information regarding your minor surgery within Oaklands Health Centre. The aim is to answer any questions that you or your carers may have following discussion with the doctor.

**Why have you been given an appointment for Minor Surgery?**

Your doctor has referred you for a small operation (minor surgery) as we either need to completely remove a lesion from your skin, called an excision or to remove a cyst, called an incision or take a sample of a lesion, called a biopsy.

**Consent**

Before any procedure is carried out the doctor carrying out the procedure will need to gain written consent from yourself. The Doctor will discuss the procedure with you and then if you are happy to proceed ask you to sign, this will be added to your records.

Once you have given your consent you can still stop the procedure at any time, however the doctor will need to ensure you are safe.

**The Operation**

The operation will be done under a local anaesthetic. This means you will be given a small injection under and around the skin of the lesion being removed or the area being operated on. Although you will be awake the initial injection will be uncomfortable and feel like a bee sting. This feeling will only last for a few seconds before the skin starts to become numb.

If you have reacted abnormally to an injection for local anaesthetic before it is most important to inform the doctor. Most people will previously have been given local anaesthetic at the dentist to have a tooth removed.

It is also helpful to let us know if you are taking aspirin or warfarin tablets as we may need to inform you to stop them for a few days. You must however **not** stop taking the medication without the advice of a doctor. There is an alternative to aspirin tablets called Clopidogrel or Plavix or Rivoroxaban or Apixiban. It would also be helpful to know if you are taking these tablets.

The operation will usually take about 15 minutes although it may be longer if more complicated. You may have to lie flat and will need to lie still for the duration of the procedure. You should have a good breakfast or lunch before and not skip meals. Any lesion removed with automatically be sent for Histology (study of the tissue).

**What to expect after the operation?**

Most surgery requires stitches to close the wound and to stop the bleeding. Depending on the procedure you may not have stitches, or they may be dissolving ones. The doctor will explain which type you have in the wound. If your stitches are not the dissolving type, then they will need to be removed. This is done by the nurse here at the surgery and you will be given verbal instructions on what to do. You may also have a dressing covering your wound. Instructions of what to do will also be given to you after the procedure. We will also give you some information on wound care including what to do if bleeding occurs. The surgery will leave a scar. If you wish for more information regarding your scar this can be discussed further with a member of staff. Once the local anaesthetic wears off you may feel a little sore. The pain should respond well to regular paracetamol tablets. You should take it easy after your operation and for the

rest of the day however if you feel fine there is no reason why you cannot return to work.

**Risks**

**Common / likely risks**

Following any surgery to the skin there will be a scar. If the surgery is to the upper back, shoulder or chest area there is more likelihood that the scar may be raised (prominent) and thickened. This is called a keloid scar. It is impossible to predict if this will occur. There may be some loss of sensation to the area of skin. This is more likely if your operation has been more complicated involving a graft. Normal sensation can take many months to return and occasionally reduced sensation may be permanent. There may be some bleeding and bruising after the surgery particularly if you take aspirin or warfarin tablets or the surgery is around the eyes or nose. The bleeding should settle you will be given instruction on this after the operation. Bruising will also settle but may take many days to resolve. Occasionally the wound may become infected. You will be given instructions on the signs and symptoms of this. Usually this requires a topical or sometimes oral antibiotic.

**Results**

Histology results can take 6 weeks to come back, a clinician is assigned to keep track of results and you will be notified if there there is a problem.