

# Can one anaesthetist undertake pre-operative assessment for another anaesthetist?

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# Pre-operative assessment

- Information gathering
- Communication – patients and colleagues
- Trouble shooting
- Logistical list management
- Critical care bed booking
- Physical and emotional preparation for surgery



## AAGBI SAFETY GUIDELINE

Pre-operative Assessment and Patient Preparation

The Role of the Anaesthetist

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# Standards

- AAGBI Guideline (2010) – Pre-operative assessment and patient preparation – The role of the anaesthetist
  - High risk pre-op clinics run by consultant anaesthetists with interest in pre-op assessment
  - Discuss risk/benefits in relation to surgery type and patient specific factors
  - Introduce risk reduction measures



# However....

- “It is the responsibility of the individual anaesthetist giving the anaesthetic to ensure that the pre-operative assessment is adequate and that the patient has sufficient information to make a reasoned decision”
- .....pre-operative assessment by any anaesthetist would make this situation more likely.....

# The argument FOR...

- Training
- Risk management
- Triage tool
- Training tool
- Second pair of eyes
- Forum for discussion. Does it not allow opportunity for more thorough assessment?

- Lifestyle changes – prehabilitation
- Emotional preparation for surgery
  - Risk/benefit discussions take time
- Time constraints – day of surgery admissions commonplace

# Summary

- Thorough assessment
- Discussion
- Information gathering
- Informs timely risk/benefit discussion
- Reduces day of surgery cancellations
- Responsibility lies with anaesthetist undertaking procedure



- One anaesthetist **CAN** undertake pre-operative assessment for another anaesthetist