Painless Obstructive Jaundice
Renal Services

What is Jaundice?
Jaundice is caused by any conditions or disorders that disrupt the functions of the liver.

The main symptom is yellowing of the skin and the whites of the eyes due to the build-up of a substance called bilirubin in the blood and tissues of the body.

Bilirubin is a waste product that's produced during the normal breakdown of red blood cells. The liver combines bilirubin with bile and it's released into the digestive system and passed out of the body in urine or stools. It is bilirubin that gives urine its light yellow colour and stools their dark brown colour.

Other symptoms may include itching, pale coloured urine and/or stools and, in severe cases, confusion or reduced levels of consciousness.

How did I get it?
There can be multiple causes for Jaundice and the pathway you have commenced today (including any investigations and treatments) will enable your doctor to understand the cause of your Jaundice which they will be able to discuss with you.

How will it be treated?
Your course of treatment will depend on the outcome of the investigations and your forthcoming appointment.

If you have been itching, you may have been prescribed anti-histamine that will work to reduce/stop that itching.

What happens next?
You will be contacted by the hospital to arrange an appointment date and time with your Doctor. At this appointment, they will discuss your condition with you and answer any questions you may have.
What can I do if I become worried about my condition?
If at any point you feel that your condition has worsened or there are any signs of bleeding or confusion, please see your GP in the first instance if possible, or otherwise, return to A&E.

The information in this leaflet is not intended to replace the advice given to you by your doctor or the service looking after you.

Further Information
We endeavour to provide an excellent service at all times, but should you have any concerns please, in the first instance, raise these with the Matron, Senior Nurse or Manager on duty. If they cannot resolve your concern, please contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on 01932 723553 or email pals@asph.nhs.uk. If you still remain concerned please contact our Complaints Manager on 01932 722612 or email complaints@asph.nhs.uk.

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We can provide interpreters for a variety of languages, information in larger print or other formats (e.g. audio) - please call us on 01932 723553.

To use the Text Relay service, prefix all numbers with 18001.