

1. Please provide information on the procedure in use by Dumfries and Galloway NHS Board in relation to operating on patients with high blood pressure and who require an anaesthetic.

The blood pressure is checked in the pre-assessment clinic. The Association of Anaesthetists Guideline on the management of blood pressure is followed. If the patient has a high blood pressure they are referred back to their GP for investigation and treatment.

2. What are the upper limits on blood pressure that apply when a patient is to undergo surgery with an anaesthetic?

This is managed on an individual basis, taking into account the urgency of surgery, evidence of long-standing effects from high blood pressure. Ambulatory or home blood pressure readings may be helpful.

3. What are the lower limits on blood pressure in the same situation? A low blood pressure does not preclude anaesthesia. Individual assessment would be required.

4. When a patient has blood pressure significantly above the limit what action would be taken?

The patient would be referred back to their GP for management and drug treatment if required. Patients should measure their blood pressures regularly at home as readings can be elevated in the clinic. An ECG would be done and the eyes examined. Bloods would be taken to assess kidney function.

5. At what point would it be necessary to cancel surgery due to blood pressure that is too high to risk an anaesthetic?

If it was felt that the blood pressure control could be optimised. This optimisation can take 4-6 weeks of treatment.

6. Are there any methods in use for reducing blood pressure to enable a patient to have surgery?

The patient would attend their GP and blood pressure reducing medication would be prescribed. A premedication sedative may be required.