



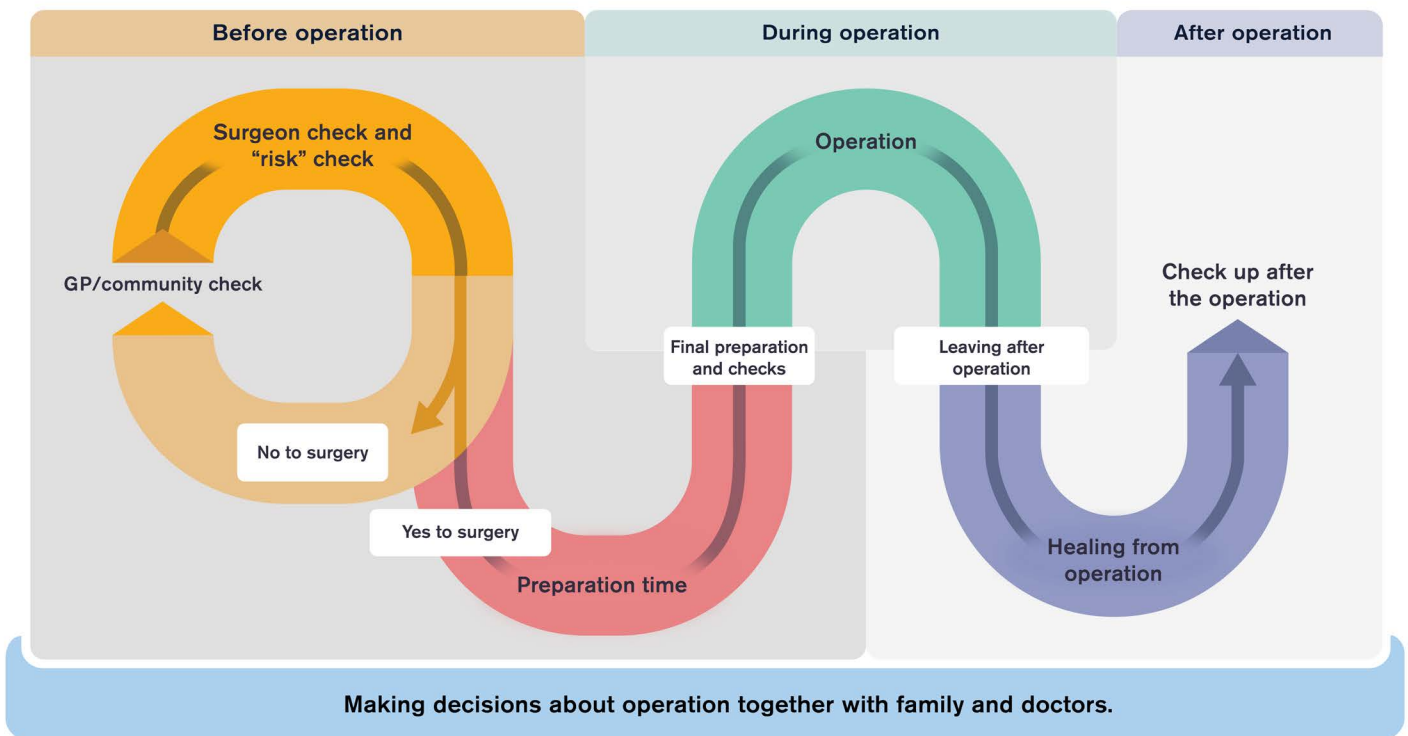
ANZCA
FPM

PERIOPERATIVE CARE

Coordinated care before, during, and after surgery

Australia and New Zealand are two of the safest places in the world to have an operation under anaesthesia. The chances of dying due to complications during surgery are extremely low (1:100,000 cases). But complications arising *after* surgery are the third leading cause of death in the developed world.

If you're very old or very sick, a bit of extra care *before* and *after* your operation ensures you're ready for surgery in the first place and have the best chance of a good recovery once the operation is over. We call this the perioperative care approach.



With thanks to Dr Edith Waugh at the Royal Darwin Hospital, Aboriginal Kidney Health Mentors and members of the Renal Advocacy Advisory Committee (RAAC) of the Northern Territory whose work inspired the creation of this version of the Perioperative Care Framework diagram for patients.

It involves a dedicated team of healthcare professionals specialising in different areas of medicine working together to:

- Improve your experience and outcomes before, during, and after surgery.
- Reduce the risk of postoperative complications.
- Reduce the number of days you spend in hospital.
- Minimise the chance of you being readmitted to hospital after surgery.

The perioperative care approach is gradually being established in hospitals and healthcare systems around Australia and New Zealand. As with elsewhere in the world, anaesthetists are taking the lead, due to their specialist understanding of the factors affecting patients' suitability for surgery and recovery.

The Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA) offers a unique [qualification in perioperative medicine](#) designed to increase the number of specialist doctors working in this field.