

positive

Nottinghamshire Healthcare **NHS**

NHS Trust

Positive about integrated healthcare



Epilepsy and Intellectual Disability
Having VNS Surgery



1 You have agreed with your specialist doctor to have a vagal nerve stimulator (VNS) to treat your epilepsy.



2 You will meet the neurosurgeon to learn more about having VNS surgery and to plan your hospital stay.



3 You might want to ask some questions. You can bring someone with you if you wish.



- 4** Having a VNS involves a small operation to fit the device. This is usually done as day surgery.



- 6** You should take your epilepsy medication as usual on the morning of your operation.



- 5** You must not eat any food from midnight on the day of surgery. Some drinks are allowed up to two hours before the operation.



- 7** You will need to come to hospital early in the morning on the day of your operation.



8 A nurse will greet you and help you to prepare for surgery.



10 A doctor will give you an anaesthetic. This is a drug to make you sleep during the operation. The VNS is put under the skin in your chest and neck. You won't feel this being done.



9 You will be taken to the operating theatre on a trolley.



11 When you wake up the wounds on your chest and neck will be covered by a dressing to keep them clean and dry.



12 The nurse will check your blood pressure, pulse and temperature after the operation.



14 You may be able to go home later on the same day after the operation. Sometimes it is necessary to stay overnight and go home the next day.



13 Once you have recovered you can get dressed and have something to eat.



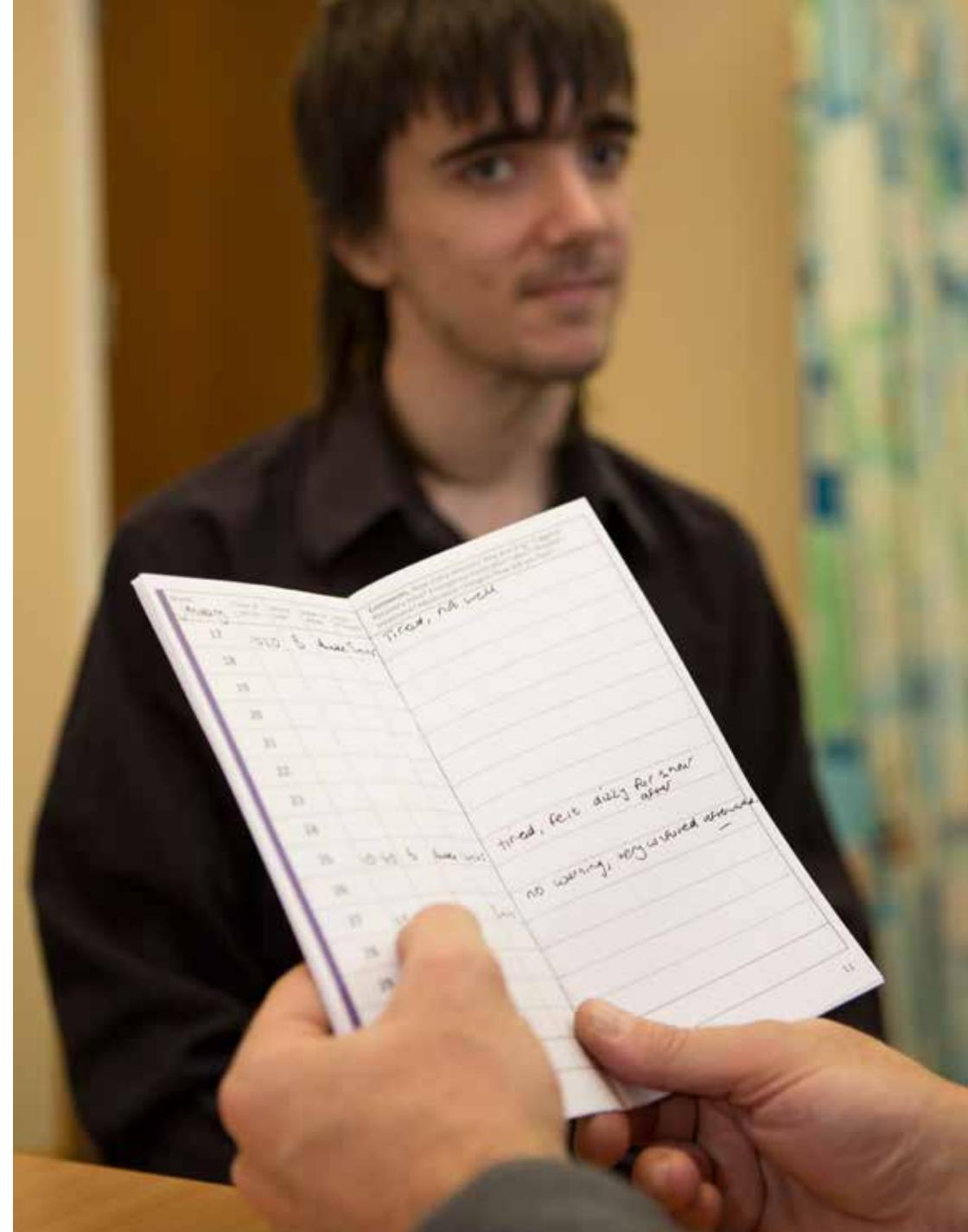
15 You will see the epilepsy nurse in the VNS clinic after the operation. The nurse will check your wounds and turn on the VNS.



16 Once the wounds have healed you will have two small scars.

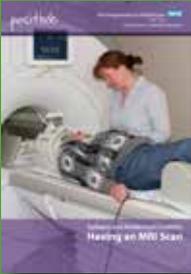


17 You will be seen regularly in clinic over the next few months to adjust the VNS settings.



18 Bring your seizure diary with you so the specialist can check your progress and adjust the VNS.

Booklets and films available:



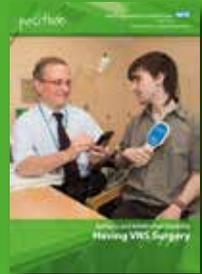
**Having an
MRI Scan**



**Having an
EEG**



**Having Video
Telemetry**



**Having VNS
Surgery**



**Transition into
Adult Services**



**Living Well with
Epilepsy**



**About Our
Service**

For more information contact:

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