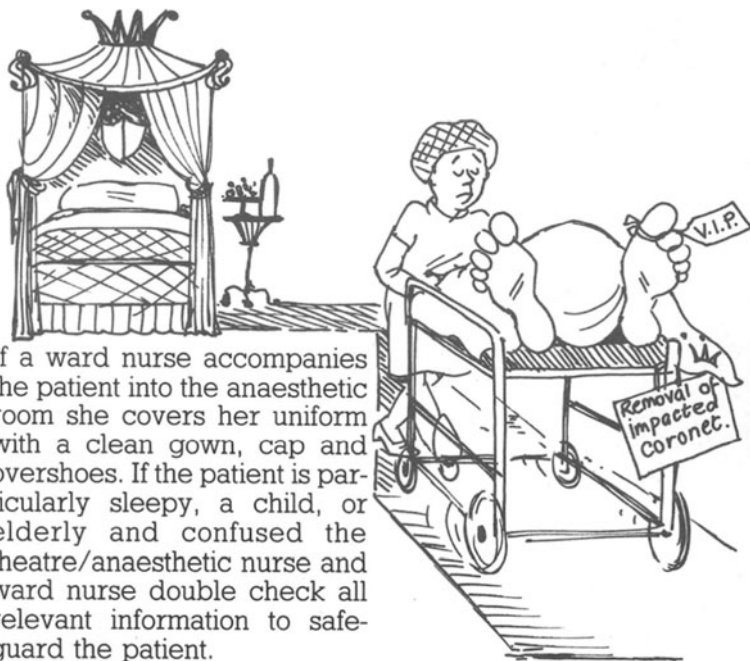


2. RECEPTION AREA

Patients arrive in this area and are checked in. This is extremely important to ensure that the correct patient goes to the correct theatre for the correct procedure, accompanied by appropriate notes and X-rays. As the reception area is the patient's first encounter with theatre it is very important to give a warm welcome and to obtain all the appropriate information in a caring manner. Beds are wheeled over a 'tacky mat' to remove gross dirt. The patient is then transferred to a theatre trolley and the linen changed, again to minimise potential outside contamination of the inside clean area.



If a ward nurse accompanies the patient into the anaesthetic room she covers her uniform with a clean gown, cap and overshoes. If the patient is particularly sleepy, a child, or elderly and confused the theatre/anaesthetic nurse and ward nurse double check all relevant information to safeguard the patient.