



Day Surgery Unit

Going to Theatre

Information for parents and carers

Introduction

The Day Surgery Unit provides care for children having day case procedures. This means children do not need to stay overnight in hospital and can be discharged on the same day to recover at home.

When to come

You will receive a letter with an admission time. The time stated in the letter is not the time your child will go to theatre but the time you are expected in the Day Surgery Unit.

At Alder Hey we have several operating theatres and there are many theatre lists running at the same time. Exact times for when a child will go to theatre cannot be given as every child will need to be assessed on the day of their operation. The minimum wait is one hour, though you may have to wait longer (usually no more than two hours), whenever possible, the nursing staff will do their best to update you.

When you arrive

The Ward Clerk will book your child in at reception by checking all your child's details are correct. You and your child will then be taken into the Day Surgery Unit.

Your child will be seen by a Healthcare Assistant who will weigh your child, and check that they are fit for their operation. To prepare for the operation the healthcare assistant will apply a numbing cream usually on the back of your child's hand.

A nurse will check your child's details and history with you and explain the day to you again.

An anaesthetist and a surgeon will come to make sure you understand the planned surgery and get written consent from you. The anaesthetist may prescribe pain relief before your child goes to theatre and will also explain pain relief options to you.

After your child has been seen by the nursing and medical staff your child can get changed into their nightwear or hospital gown and wait to be called to go to theatre.

What will happen when you child goes to theatre

When it is your child's turn to go to theatre a nurse will take your child and one parent/guardian to the anaesthetic room. Your child will be able to bring their favourite teddy/toy or blanket with them if they want to.

Once your child has had their anaesthetic and is asleep you will be shown to the waiting room in the Day Surgery Unit. If you wish, you can leave the waiting to have some refreshments; the nursing staff will let you know when you need to return back.

Returning back from theatre

After their operation you will be able to collect your child from the recovery area with one of the

nursing team. Two people can be at the bedside on the ward whilst your child recovers from the anaesthetic.

The nurse will tell you of any care your child will need at home and give you an information leaflet when your child is discharged. The information leaflet will contain contact numbers for you to ring should you have any worries or concerns.

If your child needs medication this will be given to you before they are discharged.

If you have any queries or need further information please contact day Surgery Unit on: 0151 252 5480.

This fact sheet only gives general information. You must always discuss the individual treatment of your child with the appropriate member of staff. Do not rely on this leaflet alone for information about your child's treatment.

This information can be made available in other languages and formats if requested.

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DSU /F/1 ©Alder Hey 2016 Next review date: November 2018

PIAG 071