



Ward 3A - Cleft Lip and Palate Unit

Following Cleft Lip Repair

Discharge information for Parents & Carers

What to do when your child goes home

Feeding

By the time of discharge your baby should be taking sufficient diet and fluids although this may be less than their usual intake. It can take up to two weeks to get back to their normal pattern of feeding from the bottle or breast.

A clean dummy may be given just to settle your baby to sleep for a very short period. Placing socks or mittens on your child's hands should prevent them from putting their fingers, toys etc. in to their mouth.

Care of the Lip

- Clean and dry the suture line after each feed with cooled boiled water and a clean cotton bud.
- After cleaning apply the ointment provided on discharge.
- The sutures should start to dissolve after five days but may take up to 2 weeks.

It is common for the scar to look red and raised for the first six months and may also shorten and lift the lip slightly. This will gradually become flatter, paler and softer. The nurse specialist may advise massaging the lip and will discuss this with you if required.

For the first 48 hours after discharge continue to give your child regular pain relief. Follow the instructions on the bottle carefully and **do not exceed the prescribed dose**. After this time they may require analgesia occasionally, especially when waking or before bed.

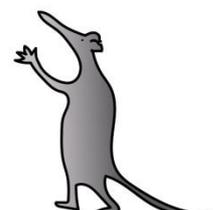
Sun protection

Please note that direct sunlight can irritate a new scar. You must keep the new scar protected from the sun for the first year following surgery. We advise the use of a high protection sun cream and that your child also wears a sun hat or cap.

Things to look out for:

The following may be signs of infection:

- Swollen, red suture line
- Oozing from suture line
- Irritability
- Increased pain
- Loss of appetite

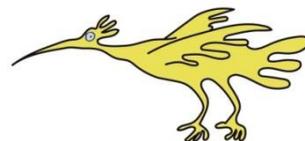


If you are worried about possible infection call Ward 3A or your GP for advice.

Your clinical nurse specialist will arrange to visit within the first week after surgery.

If you have concerns about your child following discharge please contact your nurse specialist for advice.

Heather McClement's 07979 540 255
Helen Robson 07920 499 008
Louise Hall 07817 127 187
Katy Stevenson 07855 134 498



Cleft Lip and Palate Unit 0151 252 5209

Who to contact for further information

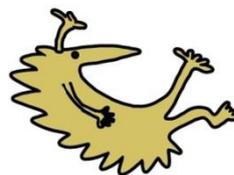
If you are worried about your child please do not hesitate to contact ward 3A on **0151 252 5416**

This leaflet 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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