

Dental Treatment under General Anaesthetic: Pre-Operative Information

A Guide for Parents, Children and Young People

Important information

Your child has been asked to attend the Surgical Admission Unit (Crichton Ward) for dental treatment. Your child must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian so that written consent can be obtained for the procedure. No more than two adults should accompany your child. We regret that siblings and other family members are not allowed on the day of surgery.

If your child is unwell, has recently had any immunisations, or has had contact with anyone with chicken pox, or diarrhoea and vomiting, please telephone the number printed on this leaflet for further advice.

Early morning admissions – 8am

The theatre list starts at 9am but your child will need to have been seen by a nurse, anaesthetist and dental surgeon before this, so **it is essential that you arrive at 8am.**

Your child should not eat anything after 12 midnight on the day before admission, but they can have water or diluting juice before 7am on the day of their dental treatment.

Late morning admissions - 11.30am

The theatre list starts at 1.30pm, but your child will need to have been seen by a nurse, anaesthetist and dental surgeon before this, so **it is essential that you arrive at 11.30am.**

Your child is allowed breakfast before 7.30am and can have water until 11.30am. **It is important that you waken your child to have an early breakfast, as they will not be allowed any food until after their treatment or surgery.**

Fasting for a general anaesthetic

Please note that the fasting guidelines are essential for your child's safety under general anaesthetic.

You may be shown to the playroom to wait while the ward is prepared for the afternoon dental patients.

What to bring

- Pyjamas
- Slippers
- Any current medication
- Favourite toy or comforter
- Any special diet/baby milk required
- Nappies, if required.

Dental treatment under general anaesthetic

- The dentist will examine your child's mouth to confirm and finalise the treatment that is required
- The gums are often numbed with a dental injection when back teeth are to be removed. If this is done, your child's cheeks and lips may feel numb when s/he wakes up from the general anaesthetic. Some children can be upset by this numb feeling.
- Teeth that are removed will not be returned. Your child will receive a theatre certificate or a certificate for the tooth fairy instead.

Aftercare

Your child will stay on the ward for around two hours to recover from the general anaesthetic. They will be monitored during this time by a nurse and encouraged to eat a light breakfast and drink fluids. Once they have recovered properly, your nurse will give you advice on aftercare, any medications required and contact telephone numbers. Some children may require a longer time to recover, and very occasionally children may have to be kept in hospital overnight. If this happens, the reason for this will be discussed with you.

Relieving pain

Your child may have some discomfort after their treatment, or surgery. Paracetamol and/or ibuprofen may be given regularly if advised it is safe to do so by the nursing or medical staff, following the instructions on the bottle. You may need to continue this for a few days.

Going home

You will need to arrange your own transport home, but please note that **children are not allowed to use public transport (e.g. bus or train) after having a general anaesthetic.**

The Surgical Admission Unit (Crichton Ward)

The Surgical Admission Unit (Crichton Ward) is focused around family-centred care and encourages parental and guardian involvement.

You will meet our nurses, play specialists, dental surgeons and anaesthetists, all of whom will be happy to discuss with you their role and how they can help make the day run more smoothly.

Dental treatment

If your child experiences pain or discomfort from the mouth, before you receive the date to come to the hospital, please contact your own dentist. If your dentist feels that your child requires further specialist advice or treatment, they may contact us directly.

Emergency treatment is available at:

- Your own dentist
- At weekends or evening, contact NHS 24 (tel.: 111)

Royal Hospital for Children and Young People
50 Little France Crescent
Edinburgh EH16 4TJ
Tel: **0131 536 1000**
Surgical Admission Unit: **0131 312 0970**
(Mon - Friday: 8am - 6.30pm)

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