

Movement of children and young people between beds, wards or hospitals during their inpatient stay

Information for parents and carers



Welcome to Children's Services at NHS Lothian

Children's Services is the department responsible for the treatment and care of children and young people across the NHS Lothian region, both in hospital and in the community or at home.

Patients can be admitted onto a ward (known as in-patients) or come for day case surgery at the Royal Hospital for Children and Young People (RHCYP) in Edinburgh or the children's ward at St. John's Hospital in Livingston. This information relates to those circumstances and what might happen during a stay.

General information for children, young people, parents and carers is available on our website, including videos, maps, transport, hospital facilities, a list of departments and what to expect before an appointment. Please visit www.children.nhslothian.scot for this information.

Why your child may be moved

We aim to give the best possible care to all of our patients, at all stages of their illness or treatment, giving them the most appropriate levels of nursing or medical care. Sometimes, the best care for a child or young person might be in another part of a ward, a different ward, or a different hospital. For example, it might be necessary to move a patient:

- To a different part of the RHCYP
- To or from the children's ward at St. John's Hospital
- To a local hospital closer to home if you do not live in the Lothian region.

When a patient needs to be moved, the decision will be taken by the consultant responsible for their care. Wherever possible, parents or carers will be spoken to or contacted to let them know that a move is planned or needed.

We understand that being in hospital can be a stressful time for patients and their families and we will only move a child when it is absolutely necessary. Examples of why the decision to move your child might be made include:

- Your child is on a short-stay ward and it becomes apparent that they need to stay for longer than 48 hours. We may have to move your child onto a longer-stay ward.
- At certain times of the year we have high numbers of children with specific illnesses being admitted. Children who are stable may need to be moved to another ward, or to (or from) St. John's Hospital. This allows emergency admissions or patients needing closer observation to be cared for in the best place for them.

Cubicles and individual rooms

Cubicles and individual rooms are given to patients that need them the most. There are two priorities for cubicles or rooms:

1. A child with a condition that makes them vulnerable to infection
2. A child who has or may have an infection that could pose a risk to other patients.

If your child has been allocated a cubicle or room for another reason, they might be moved into an open ward area if they are well enough. This means that we can care for other children who need to be in isolation.

If your child has been treated for their infection, or their infection has been identified and they no longer need to stay in isolation, they might be moved into an open ward area. This allows us to care for new admissions that need isolation.

Visiting

Infection control precautions mean that visiting is restricted to two visitors by a child's bedside at any one time. Children under 5 are not allowed to visit the ward areas. Sometimes visiting guidelines need to change at short notice – please speak to the Charge Nurse, or nurse in charge of your child's care if you have any questions.

Further information

The safety of all children and young people in our care is considered at all times. If you have any concerns or questions about your child's admission or this information, you are very welcome to speak to the Charge Nurse or nurse in charge of your child's care. Thank you for your understanding.

Interpretation and translation

This leaflet may be made available in a larger print, Braille or your community language.

