

Contact details

Paediatric Emergency Department

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PALS and Advocacy contact details

Contact details of independent advocacy services can be provided by our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) who are located on the right hand side as you enter the main reception area. PALS are also your first point of contact for health related issues, questions or concerns surrounding RSCH patient services.

Telephone: 01483 402757

Email: rsc-tr.pals@nhs.net

Opening hours: 9.00am–3.00pm
Monday to Friday

If you would like information documents in large print, on tape or in another language or form please contact PALS.

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Manipulation of paediatric forearm fractures

Paediatric Emergency Department



Patient information leaflet

This leaflet is designed to give you advice when your child has injured their arm and the bone/bones are not in the correct position to heal normally:-

Why does my child need treatment for their arm fracture?

The bone(s) are broken and at the wrong angle for healing. In many cases the bones will heal like this and the arm will straighten out over time (months to years). However, sometimes it is better to straighten the arm before applying the plaster cast.

Who will treat my child?

You will have been referred to the orthopaedic team (bone doctors) who will assess your child and determine whether they can be treated in the Paediatric Emergency Department. If appropriate the doctor will manipulate (straighten) your child's arm in the Emergency Department.

What treatment should I expect?

Your child will be given strong painkillers (with or without light sedation to make them sleepy) to allow the orthopaedic doctor to gently straighten his/her arm and put it in a plaster cast.

Another x-ray will be performed after the procedure to check the new position is adequate.

What happens if the procedure isn't successful?

In some incidents it is not possible to adequately straighten the arm in A&E. In such circumstances, your child will be admitted for a manipulation under anaesthesia (MUA) – i.e. they will have a general anaesthetic and will be fully asleep in the operating theatre and the arm will be straightened. This usually requires an overnight stay in hospital.

Who can I speak to if I have any questions?

The orthopaedics doctor will take time to answer any questions and explain the procedure.

Please speak to the paediatric nurse if you have any other questions in the meantime.

Will there be a follow-up appointment?

A fracture clinic appointment to see the orthopaedic doctors will be made for you before you are discharged home.

Reference sources

- Nottingham Children's Hospital Guideline for reduction of paediatric fractures in A&E, 2012.
- Kurien, T., Price, K.R., Pearson, R.G., Dieppe, C. & Hunter, J.B. 2016, "Manipulation and reduction of paediatric fractures of the distal radius and forearm using intranasal diamorphine and 50% oxygen and nitrous oxide in the emergency department: a 2.5-year study", *The bone & joint journal*, vol. 98-B, no. 1, pp. 131-136.