

When can my child eat and drink?

Your child can drink water/squash as soon as he/she is awake. They can eat once they tolerate a drink. Food and drink will be provided for your child after the operation. Or your child can help pack his/her own food bag so they have their favourite food.

When will my child be able to go home?

Your child will be allowed home when: He/she has tolerated a drink and something to eat, passed urine, is comfortable and walks safely.

This may or may not be the same day. Please ensure you have transport to take your child home. Public transport is not recommended after an anaesthetic.

Will we see the surgeon before we go home?

It is not always possible to see the surgeon who performed your child's operation. However you will be given written information for after care at home. If necessary a follow up appointment will be given or posted to you

Will my child need any medication?

We recommend that you have a supply of your child's regular pain relief at home, such as paracetamol (CALPOL®) and ibuprofen. Anything additional will be prescribed by the doctor before you leave and ordered from pharmacy for your child.

When you get home, if you have any concerns about your child, contact the hospital:

01483 571122

Contact details

Hascombe ward

Telephone: 01483 464071

Key reference source:

www.rcoa.ac.uk/patientinfo

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.

Past review date: December 2016

Future review date: December 2019

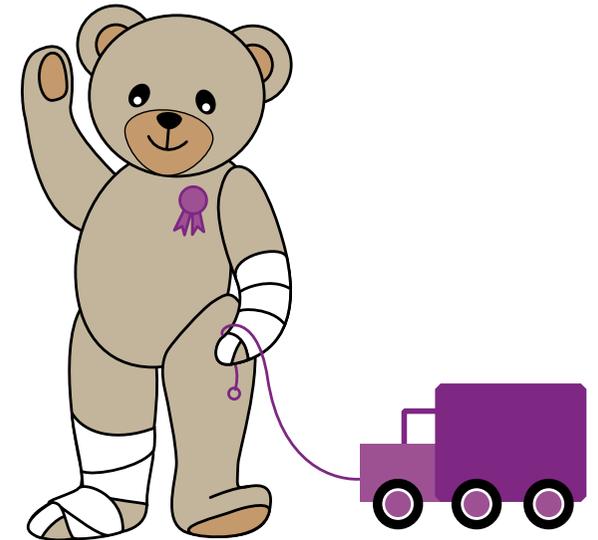
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Having an operation



Hascombe Ward

What happens before my child's operation?

The latest time that you should give your child something to eat or drink is:

- 6 hours before their surgery, your child can have a meal or a drink of milk. Bottle babies can have a formula feed
- 4 hours before admission, if your baby is breastfed, you can feed your baby
- 2 hours before surgery, your child can have a drink of water or juice but not a fizzy drink

Please phone the hospital if your child develops a severe cough or cold, or has contact with chicken pox shortly before the day of the operation.

Hascombe ward: 01483 464071

How do I prepare my child?

We advise that you explain to your child why they are coming to hospital. This examination should be in a way that your child can understand. Bring your child's usual medication with you. Your child will be asked to remove any jewellery or make-up nail polish.

Our play specialist can give explanations through play.

You and your child can visit the ward before the day of admission, please contact Hascombe ward: **01483 464071**

Who will we meet when we come on to the ward?

You will meet a nurse who will explain the ward and ask questions about your child.

What will the nurse do?

The nurse will record your child's temperature, pulse rate, blood pressure, weight and height. A local anaesthetic cream will be applied to the back of your child's hand. This will numb the skin ready for the general anaesthetic injection.

Who else will we meet on the ward?

You will meet the doctor who will ask your permission for the operation to go ahead. The consent form must be signed by the parent or the guardian. If you have any questions about the operation, please ask the doctor.

The anaesthetist will explain to your child about the special sleep and tell you about the type of anaesthesia your child will receive. If your child has a cough, cold or sore throat, the operation may be cancelled. Your child may go home until another date for the operation has been arranged

What will happen when my child goes to theatre?

Please make sure your child has a bath/shower before admission so your child is clean for the operation. Your child will be given a theatre gown to wear for the operation. Your child can keep most underwear on. Bring clothing for your child to wear and for your child to change into to go home.

Your child will go to theatre on their bed accompanied by you and a staff member. The theatre staff will give you a bleep in order to contact you when the operation is finished. Only one parent may go into the anaesthetic room. Once your child is asleep, you will be asked to leave the room. You may feel very tearful leaving your child; this is quite a normal reaction.

What will happen after the operation?

After the operation, you can be with your child in the recovery area. Again, only one parent is permitted in this room. Once he/she is awake, your child will return to Hascombe ward. A cannula may be left in place, so that medicines can be given to your child without the need for further injections.

Will the anaesthetic upset my child?

All children recover from the anaesthetic differently. This depends on the type of operation and anaesthetic your child received. Common side effects include a sore throat, headache, sickness or dizziness. These usually last only a short time and there are medicines available to treat them if necessary.

Can my child bring his/her special toy?

Your child may bring a toy or comforter to theatre with them, so that your child has it when he/she is in the recovery area.