After your child’s general anaesthetic

Information for parents and carers
Once your child is awake from the anaesthetic they can start drinking and, if they are not sick, they can start eating their normal diet.

The minimum recovery time before discharge is 1 hour. This is usually enough time for us to check that your child is recovering well. If your child has not passed urine within 6 hours of the procedure please contact the ward for advice.

Your child cannot go home on public transport after a general anaesthetic. You will need to take them home by car. This will be more comfortable for them, and also quicker for you to return to the hospital if there are any complications on the journey home. You should bring loose fitting clothes for them to wear on the journey home.

Occasionally, the anaesthetic may leave your child feeling sick for the first 24 hours. The best treatment for this is rest and small, frequent amounts of fluid, toast or biscuits. If they are sick and this continues for longer than 24 hours, please contact your GP.

The hospital experience is strange and unsettling for some children, so do not be concerned if your child is more clingy, easily upset or has disturbed sleep. Just be patient and understanding.
How to contact us if you have any concerns

Children’s Day Care Ward: 01865 234 148/9
(7.30am to 7.30pm, Monday to Friday)

Outside of these hours, you can contact:

Robin’s Ward: 01865 231 254/5
Melanie’s Ward: 01865 234 054/55
Tom’s Ward: 01865 234 108/9
Bellhouse Drayson: 01865 234 049
Kamran’s Ward: 01865 234 068/9
Horton General Hospital Children’s Ward: 01295 229 001/2

All of these wards are 24 hours, 7 days a week.

Oxford University Hospitals Switchboard: 0300 304 7777

Further information

For further information about your child’s general anaesthetic, please visit the website of the Royal College of Anaesthetists.

www.rcoa.ac.uk/patientinfo
If you have a specific requirement, need an interpreter, a document in Easy Read, another language, large print, Braille or audio version, please call **01865 221 473** or email **PALS@ouh.nhs.uk**

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