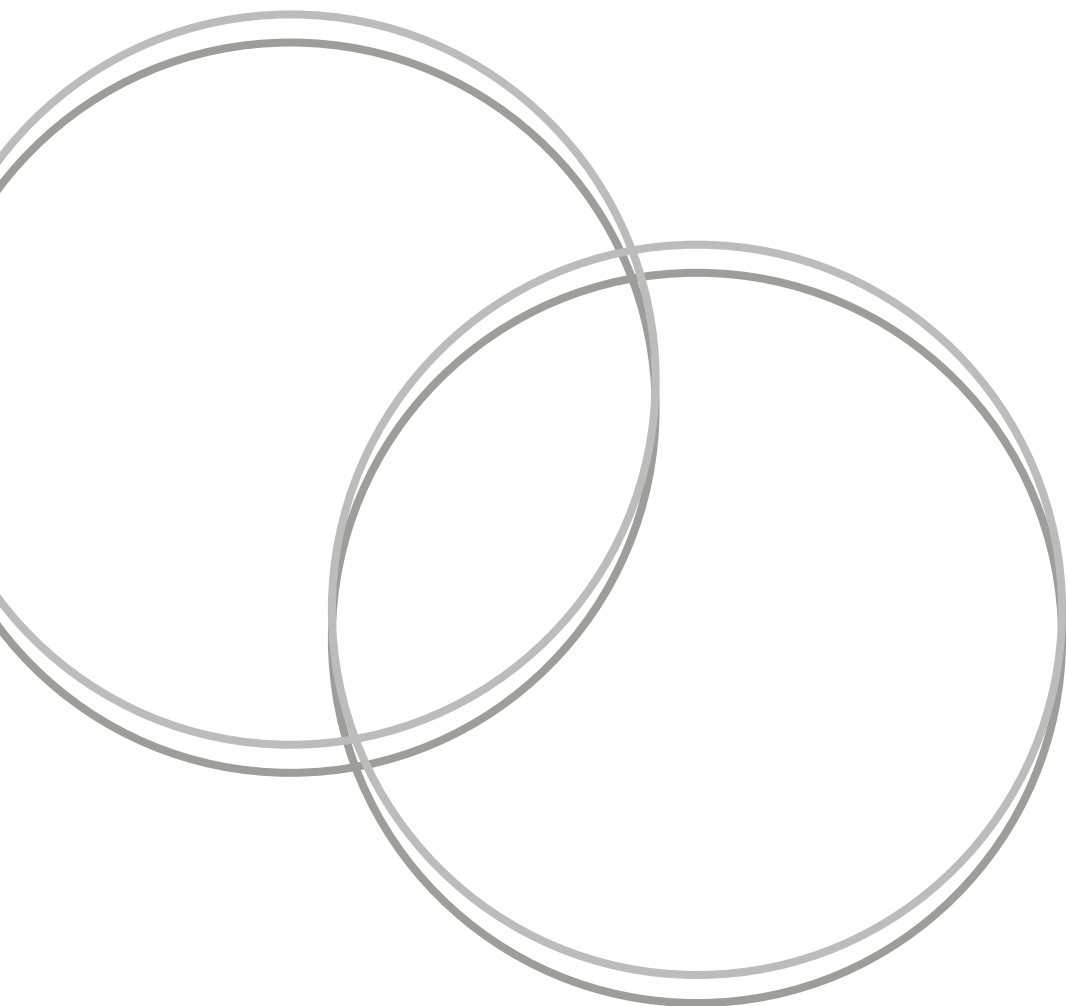




Oxford University Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

If your child is in hospital for more than 90 days

Information for parents and carers



This leaflet explains what happens if your child is in hospital for more than 90 consecutive days.

What does the law say?

By law (Section 85 of the Children Act 1989 and 2004), hospitals must tell the local authority Children's Social Care team if a child has been in hospital care for more than 90 days.

This is called a notification and is a legal duty that is required to make sure children families receive any support they may need.

You do not need to give permission for the hospital to share this information as this is required by law under section 85 of the Children Act (1989).

Why do we tell the local authority?

This is not because anyone has done anything wrong, it is standard procedure.

Children who are away from home for over 90 days can sometimes need extra help and being in hospital for many weeks can be difficult for children and their families.

Telling Children's Social Care helps to:

- Make sure your child is safe and well.
- Identify any support your child or family may need.
- Help with planning for when your child is ready to come home.

It acts as a safety net for children who might be more vulnerable during a long stay in hospital or other settings.

What information will we share?

We will share the following information with Children's Social Care:

- Your child's full name, date of birth and address.
- The date they came into hospital and the reason for their stay.
- Your name and contact details.
- Your child's GP.

The nurse caring for your child will let you know when this information has been shared.

What does the local authority do?

A social worker may:

- Contact you to talk about your child's needs.
- Offer to meet you and carry out an assessment.
- Write a report and share it with you.
- Suggest a plan to support your child, especially when they are getting ready to leave hospital.

If any extra support is needed, they will work with you to help put this in place.

What is this all for?

This process is a positive and proactive step to support your child's wellbeing.

It is not about checking up on parents. It is to make sure:

- Children are safe, valued and respected.
- Families feel supported.
- Everyone is prepared for going home when the time comes.

Who can I talk to if I have questions?

Please speak to the nurse caring for your child. If needed, they can contact the Matron (senior nurse) to help or the safeguarding children team.

Further information

If you would like an interpreter, please speak to the department where you are being seen.

Please also tell them if you would like this information in another format, such as:

- Easy Read
- large print
- braille
- audio
- electronic
- another language.

We have tried to make the information in this leaflet meet your needs. If it does not meet your individual needs or situation, please speak to your healthcare team. They are happy to help.

Author: Tracy Toohey
March 2026
Review: March 2029
Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
www.ouh.nhs.uk/information



Making a difference across our hospitals

charity@ouh.nhs.uk | 01865 743 444 | hospitalcharity.co.uk

OXFORD HOSPITALS CHARITY (REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1175809)

