

# 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. It also gives us time to check that they are passing urine (having a wee) after the operation/procedure. In some circumstances your child may be allowed home before they have passed urine. If they have not passed urine within 6 hours of the operation, please contact the ward for advice.

In case of any complications on the journey home, we advise not travelling home by public transport following general anaesthetic, as they may need to return to hospital quickly. Please make sure you have arranged in advance for your child to travel home by car. 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 and food. 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 clingy, easily upset or has disturbed sleep.

## **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)

## **Urgent/out of hours contacts**

If you need urgent advice, please contact your local 'out of hours' service.

Information about urgent and emergency care in England can be found on the NHS website or calling the NHS 111 Helpline  
**(Dial 111 free from any landline or mobile)**

If your child was an inpatient on a ward you can contact the appropriate ward:

Robin's Ward:	<b>01865 231 254/5</b>
Melanie's Ward:	<b>01865 234 054/55</b>
Tom's Ward:	<b>01865 234 109/110</b>
Bellhouse Drayson Ward:	<b>01865 231 247/8</b>
Kamran's Ward:	<b>01865 234 068/9</b>
Horton General Hospital Children's Ward:	<b>01295 229 001/2</b>
<b>(All of these wards are 24 hours, 7 days a week)</b>	
Oxford University Hospitals Switchboard:	<b>0300 304 7777</b>

## **Further information**

For further information about your child's general anaesthetic, please visit:

**Royal College of Anaesthetists:**  
[www.rcoa.ac.uk/patientinfo](http://www.rcoa.ac.uk/patientinfo)

**Oxford University Hospitals:**  
[www.ouh.nhs.uk/children/](http://www.ouh.nhs.uk/children/)

## 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.

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Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust  
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