Children’s Theatre Pathway
What to expect when coming for a general anaesthetic

Updated information for parents and carers

The Children’s Hospital, Oxford
RING RRRRRRING

QUICK, SOMEONE NEEDS OUR HELP!

TIME TO GET READY FOR ACTION

WHEN YOU COME TO THEATRE WE MIGHT LOOK A BIT DIFFERENT THAN USUAL - IT’S OK TO LAUGH!

Haha!

TO KEEP YOU SAFE WE ALL HAVE OUR SUPER SUITS ON

KAPOW!
Everyone’s safety is our priority at all times.

Whilst COVID-19 is still present, you will see members of staff on the ward wearing our standard Personal Protection Equipment (PPE). This includes:

- a face (surgical) mask
- a plastic apron
- medical gloves
- eye protection (if required).
BEFORE THE PROCEDURE
You and your child will be seen by an anaesthetist before their procedure. They will ask questions about your child’s health and explain what will happen during the anaesthetic. Any questions you may have will be answered at this time.

WHEN IT IS TIME FOR THE PROCEDURE
You will not be able to go with your child to the operating theatre. This is for everyone’s safety.

Your child can take one comfort item with them (dummy, soft toy, etc.).

We will offer you the option for your child to have a pre-medication on the ward before they are taken for their procedure. This is a special medicine which is given by mouth and can help your child feel calmer.

If your child cannot take medicine by mouth there are alternative options, which the anaesthetist will explain.

We highly recommend this option, as we are aware that separating your child from you can be upsetting for everyone involved.

Before your child is taken for their procedure, a team member from theatres will go through the safety checks and paperwork with you and your child’s nurse on the ward. This will include the consent form, which confirms you are happy for the procedure to go ahead.

Your child will then be taken to the operating theatre. You can stay on the ward whilst your child is having their procedure.
DURING THE PROCEDURE

When your child is having their anaesthetic the medical team looking after them will be wearing our enhanced PPE. This includes:

- a special type of face mask
- a long-sleeved disposable gown
- a hat
- medical gloves
- eye protection.

These help protect everyone during the anaesthetic.

Some masks may look like a diver’s or superhero mask; this might be a helpful way to describe them to your child, so they are prepared beforehand.
AFTER THE PROCEDURE

When your child’s anaesthetic has finished, they will remain in the recovery team’s care until they are awake and comfortable.

The additional steps relating to staff putting on and taking off the PPE may mean your child is away for longer than expected.

When your child is ready, the ward nurse will be asked to collect them and reunite you with them on the ward.

If you have any questions, please speak to the nurses looking after your child.
If you need an interpreter or would like this information leaflet in another format, such as Easy Read, large print, Braille, audio, electronically or another language, please speak to the department where you are being seen. You will find their contact details on your appointment letter.