



## Information for Elective Surgical Admissions to the Children's Ward for Parents/Guardians

Welcome to the Children's Ward in the Bon Secours Hospital Cork. All of the staff in the hospital know that bringing your child to hospital can be a daunting time. However we hope this information will help you. This leaflet explains what will happen when your child comes to hospital and the routine that is followed when your child is having surgery.

Our aim is to work in Partnership with Parents/ Guardians in the care of children.

### Admission

Please check in at the reception desk on arrival to the hospital which is located on the ground floor by the front hall.

You will then be taken to the admissions office where staff will check your child's personal details as well as your insurance details.

You will then be brought to the Children's ward by a member of the admission staff.

### What happens on the ward?

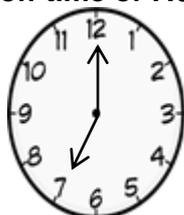
Once you have arrived on the ward a nurse will go through some questions with you. The nurse will also check your child's details and apply a name band on their wrist or ankle. Next the nurse will check your child's vital signs and weight. The nurse may also put some special magic cream (local anaesthetic) on your child's hands; this allows a cannula (tube) to be inserted while your child is in theatre.

The nurse will also give you a gown that your child will wear going for their operation/procedure. The nurse will confirm the approximate time your child will be going for their operation/procedure. The Paediatric doctor will ask you some questions; they examine your child to ensure that they are well enough to go ahead with their planned surgery. You will also be asked to sign consent for the operation if this has not been signed previously with the Consultant who is performing your child's operation. As part of the consent process, the risks, benefits and alternative's of the procedure need to be explained to you.

### Fasting

If your child's operation is taking place in the morning your child may eat and drink until midnight on the day before their operation.

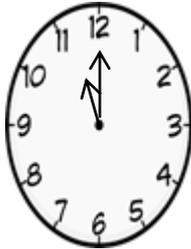
They can have **clear fluids** such as **flat 7 up or water** (No milk or juices) until 7.00 a.m. **It is very important to give your child a drink of clear fluid before the cut off time of 7.00am.**



If your child's operation or procedure is in the afternoon, your child: may eat and drink until 7:00 am on the morning of surgery. It is important that they have had food before the cut off time of 7am.

They can **have clear fluids** to drink such as **flat 7 up or water** (No milk or juices) until 11.00am.

**It is very important to give your child a clear drink before the cut off time of 11.00am.**



### What happens in theatre?

One parent/guardian can accompany the child to the operating theatre. The nurse from the Children's Ward will bring you and your child to the reception area of the theatre. Here a nurse will check your child's details and go through the consent for your child's operation. You will be asked to put on a disposable coat over your clothes as well as a theatre hat and clogs. You can go into the operating theatre and stay with your child until they are asleep, then you will be escorted out of the theatre. While your child is having their operation you will be encouraged to get something to eat and drink for yourself in the hospital restaurant which is located on the ground floor.

### The recovery room

When your child's operation is finished you can go with the nurse from the Children's ward to the recovery room in Theatre to bring your child back to the Children's ward. The nurse from the Children's ward will take the handover from the nursing staff in Theatre about your child's operation. You will then come back to the children's ward, where your child's observations (PEWS) Paediatric Early Warning System will be monitored regularly. Your child may also have a bandage on their hand covering a cannula which would have been put in during your child's operation. The nurse will remove the cannula before you go home. When your child is awake they will be given something to drink first and then eat.

### Note for Parents

Some children come back to the children's ward fully alert and awake; others may be crying or sleepy. Both reactions are normal. All children get anti sickness and anti pain medicine in theatre. However, some children may still experience pain or nausea on the ward. If this happens to your child it will be treated quickly.

### Discharge

If your child is admitted as a day case we usually keep your child for approximately 4 hours after they come back from theatre. This is to ensure they are recovered from the anaesthetic and do not have post operative complications such as nausea, vomiting, pain, bleeding or raised temperature. Your allocated nurse will talk through the post operative advice for going home and you will have an opportunity to ask any questions. You will also be given a Discharge Advice Leaflet/Sheet with specific

information for your child. Children who are not day cases or who can not be discharged on the day of admission because of post –operative complications will be seen in the evening and the team will decide when they will go home but as a guideline in general post tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy children stay 1 night and go home the next day after breakfast.

#### Safety on the Children's Ward

Our aim here on the Children's Ward is to make your child's stay as comfortable as possible and we encourage your involvement/participation in your child's care. We have a buzzer system in place at the doors of the Children's Ward to keep all our patients safe. Please ring the buzzer once and be patient as the staff may be tending to a child and will allow you access into the ward as soon as possible. Children are not allowed to leave the Children's Ward with their parent/guardian unless permission is gained from nursing staff. They are only allowed go to another department for tests/procedures as requested by their consultant.

#### Falls Prevention

Children are at risk of falls whilst in hospital due to the unfamiliar environment. To reduce this risk please read the falls prevention sheet located at the end of each bed or the large poster displayed on the ward.

#### Environmental safety

Please ensure that the cot sides are in the fully upright position if you are leaving your baby/toddler for any length of time. Please inform a member of staff if you are leaving your child unattended for any length of time. Please maintain the area surrounding your child's cot/bed space in a neat and tidy manner allowing access to your child as needed for the nurse to record observations and administering medications. A call bell is located at each bed space should you require a nurse urgently. During the night a "night light" may be required to be left on if the nursing staffs are observing children post surgery.

#### Isolation

Children in isolation need to stay in their rooms. Children may be moved from one room to another to facilitate those that require to be nursed in isolation. Surgical hand gel is widely available on the ward high up on the wall. Please use same to help prevent the spread of infection. Hands need to be washed with soap and water if visibly dirty.

#### Facilities available for families

A parent's room is provided. Hot drinks may only be consumed in the parent's room. Children are not allowed in this area. If you wish you may store food in the fridge in the parent's room. Please label and date all food. A toilet and shower for your use is provided next to the parent's room. When your child is with us overnight on Children's Ward a recliner armchair for one parent /guardian is available at the bed side. There is a restaurant on the ground floor which is open from 07:15 – 18.40. Children who are inpatients are not allowed accompany parents to the restaurant.

### Playroom

A playroom is located across from the nurses station children using the play room must be supervised by a parent//guardian at all times.



### What you should bring to hospital

Space on the Children's Ward is limited so we can only accommodate one parent/carer per child

- Toiletries to include nappies, wipes where needed
- Pyjamas
- Slippers
- Any special comforter (teddy/soother)

Any special formula, feed or medication inhalers or medicine your child is taking. Please leave valuables/ large sums of cash at home. Please note that the hospital accepts no responsibility for lost or stolen property.

### Car Park

The car park for the hospital is a pay and display system. If staying for 24 hours the charge is €10. Paid parking is from 07:00 to 22:00. The hourly rate for the car park is €2.50. Disc parking and clamping is in operation on the streets around the hospital. Please check with your individual insurance provider regarding possible reimbursement of costs (including parking) whilst your child is in hospital.