

Information leaflet for Parents and Carers

Trauma List Information



By your side

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Information for parents who's children have had a traumatic injury.

A traumatic injury is any injury caused when a child has had an accident and hurt themselves. The injury may require surgical repair.

When your child arrives on the ward for assessment you will be informed which surgical team will be looking after your child, this will be one of the Plastic surgery, Maxillofacial (face) or Orthopaedic (bone) teams.

We have a lot patients within the 3 specialties every day, the order of the trauma list has to be decided by the doctor's and anaesthetists.

We will take into consideration the age of the child, and how the injury has happened to them.

Please do not worry if your child does not go to theatre at the time discussed.

The trauma co-ordinator will keep you informed of any delays and will advise your child if they can have a clear fluid drink during the day.

The wards are very busy and you will see a lot of other children and young people coming and going for their operations. These children are on elective or planned surgical lists on an allocated morning or afternoon session.

How can I keep my child occupied?

Most wards have play room facilities and activities to keep your child occupied whilst waiting for their operation. Your child may also be able to go to the play center whilst waiting for their operation. It can be helpful for your child to bring with them a favourite toy / comforter to help them feel safe whilst at hospital.

Please note that it is your responsibility to ensure all personal possessions brought along with you are looked after.

What time do I need to come into hospital with my child?

You will be asked to come into hospital for 7:30am on the day of surgery.

It is important that we prepare your child safely for theatre. Sometimes your child may need other tests or investigations done before they are ready for surgery and may need to see a doctor or anaesthetist prior to their surgery.

You will also need to sign a consent form before your child goes to theatre.

Sometimes children do not go to theatre due to the nature of their injury and these children will be allowed to go home earlier. Should this happen your child may go to theatre earlier than planned which is why we ask you to come in earlier to prevent any delays in going to theatre. However, the trauma list may sometimes run into the afternoon or evening. The trauma co-ordinator will keep you fully informed throughout the day should this happen.

If my child is given a drink, how long do they have to wait before they are ready for surgery again?

We aim to keep the amount of time your child goes without food or drink to as short a time as possible. If the time you are waiting is longer than first planned then the trauma co-coordinator or the ward staff will inform you and your child of the delay and explain to you what will happen next.

It is important that you do not give your child milk, fresh fruit juice, fizzy drink, chewing gum or food during this time, as this will delay your child's going to theatre or may result in your child's operation being postponed to another day.

If your child is given a drink and the theatre time is later than planned, then your child will be offered another clear fluid drink on the ward, to ensure your child remains hydrated throughout the day.

Please do not worry if this happens your child will still go to theatre.

In very rare circumstances your child may not go to theatre as planned. You will be kept informed of what is happening on the trauma list and will be given another date and time to come back in to hospital. You will have the opportunity to talk to the trauma co-ordinator or a member of the medical team if this happens.

What do I do if my child is unwell or has been in contact with someone infectious?

It is important to let us know if your child has become unwell or has been in contact with an infectious illness such as chicken-pox, measles, mumps, diarrhoea or vomiting.

The ward staff will advise you further about coming into hospital or what to do if your child has been in contact with anything infectious.

We need to know about this as we have to make sure we protect vulnerable children who may be susceptible to these illnesses whilst in our care.

What happens if I am late for my child's admission?

We understand that sometimes this does happen but we would encourage you to make every effort to bring your child into hospital on the day of their operation and allow plenty of time for parking and getting to the ward on the day of your child's operation.

It is important that you let the ward know as soon as possible should you experience any problems getting to the hospital so that the ward staff can let the doctors and the anaesthetist know.

Our trauma wards gets very busy, and if you do not let us know why you are late then we may have to delay, postpone or even cancel your child's operation. If this happens you will be given another date to come in.

For any further information or concern's regarding your child's operation, please contact Surgical Day Care on: 0121 333 9162. As soon as possible.

If your child needs to come into hospital starved these are the helpful tips for you to follow at home. Your doctor will advise you when your child will need to be starved for their operation.

It is important that your child does not fast for a long period before their operation so it is important that they eat and drink as normal the evening before their operation.

Your child may eat and drink normally until 3am on the day of their surgery.



After 3am they must only drink clear drinks. This must be water or weak squash. No fizzy drinks are allowed. Please do not give your child any milk drink or fresh fruit juices at this time.

On the morning of your child's operation at 7am you must give your child their last clear drink of water or weak squash. Please make sure that your child has this drink as this avoids then not having a drink for a long time.



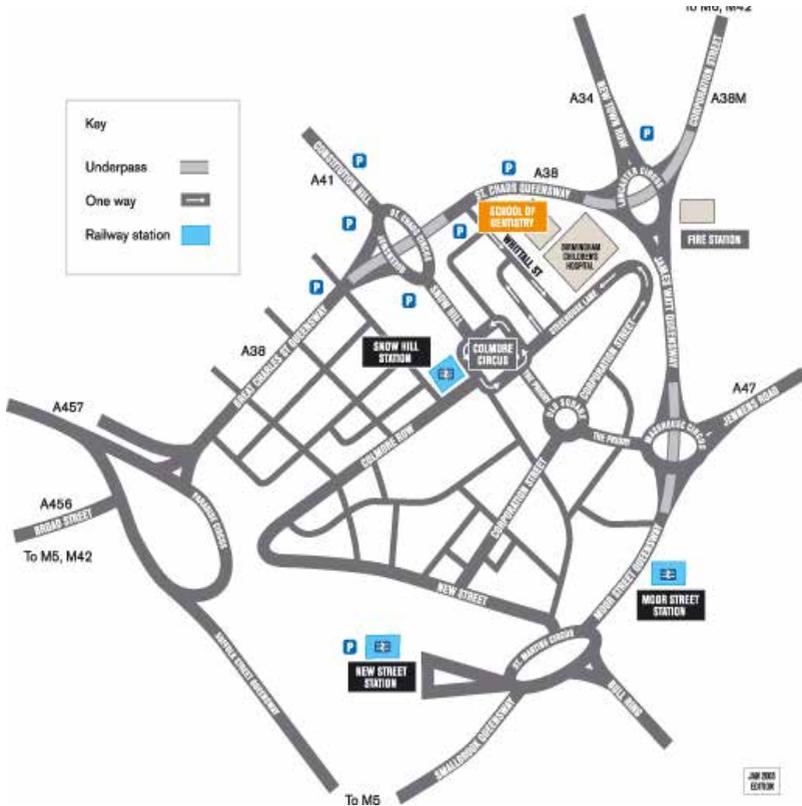
After this final drink at 7am your child should have nothing more to eat or drink. This is so that your child is ready for their operation when they arrive in hospital.

Please do not give your child any chewing gum on the day of their operation.

If you need any further advice then please contact Surgical Day Care on [0121 333 9562](tel:01213339562).

Car Park

Car parking at the hospital site is limited and there is a charge, so please bring change with you. Parking can be found on Printing house street and Royal Angus NCP car park. Please ensure your parking ticket is validated at the welcome desk inside the hospital for hospital parking rates to apply.



This leaflet has been written by the trauma team at BCH.

Looking after and sharing information about your child

We have a duty of care to help patients and families understand how information about them is kept and shared and we include the following information in all our patient leaflets:

Information is collected about your child relevant to their diagnosis, treatment and care. We store it in written records and electronically on computer. As a necessary part of that care and treatment we may have to share some of your information with other people and organisations who are either responsible or directly involved in your child's care. If you have any questions and/or do not want us to share that information with others, please talk to the people looking after your child or contact PALS (Patient Advice and Liaison Service) on 0121 333 8611

Please use this space to write down any notes or questions you might have.

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