

Child health information factsheet

Welcome to the paediatric assessment and short stay unit

Your child has been referred here for a specialist paediatric opinion with the intention that they will only be admitted if they cannot be cared for at home.

Your child will be assessed by a nurse first and then a medical or surgical doctor.

Your child will stay on the assessment unit for a period of time of observation before being either discharged home or transferred to a ward.

The doctors seeing your child are also responsible for looking after children across the unit and will need to see the most seriously ill children first. This may result in some delay but we will do our best to avoid this.

Please be patient with us and remember that staff will not tolerate verbal aggression.

A responsible adult must stay with your child at all times. If you need to leave the ward at any time please make sure that you speak to a member of staff first.

If your child needs to stay in hospital overnight, we only have room for one parent to stay.

Transport home

Your child may be sent home at any time of the day or night.

Please make arrangements with friends or family to help with your return home when your child is ready. We are unable to provide any form of transport.

If your car is parked in the multi-storey car park for more than six hours we can give you a parking discount voucher. Please speak to your nurse who can arrange this.

Food and drink

Please check with your nurse before giving your child anything to eat or drink.

A range of formula milks and cold drinks are available for the child who is being assessed, as well as meals or sandwiches as appropriate.

In the interests of safety we are unable to routinely provide hot drinks on the ward and cannot offer this service to parents. If you would like to bring a hot drink onto the ward please check first with the nursing staff.

A range of food and drinks can be purchased in the canteen on B level or from the shops on C level.

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To comply with safeguarding legislation nursing staff have to ask the following questions of all patients being admitted

- Does anyone in your family have a mental health illness?
- Does anyone in the family suffer from drug or alcohol issues or misuse?
- Are there any issues of domestic violence within the family?

(Ref – Working Together 2006, 4LSCB Joint working protocol 2008 and Hidden Harm Agenda 2006)

We will also ask for

- The full name and date of birth of both parents
- The full name and date of birth of all brothers and sisters
- The full details of any others (grandparents and partners) living within the family home.

If you want to discuss any of these issues in private please tell the nurse admitting you.

Please note that information about the patient can only be given to parents.

Young People between the age of 16 and 18

If you are aged between 16 and 18-years-old you have the choice to be treated on a children or an adult ward. Please let the nurse know what you would prefer.

Mobile Phones

Mobile phones cannot be used on the unit for reasons of confidentiality but they may be used in the lift and lobby areas.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact

The contact number for the paediatric assessment unit is **023 8079 4628**

If you need a translation of this document, an interpreter or a version in large print, Braille or on audio tape, please telephone 023 8079 4688 for help.