

# Your upcoming operation – children's orthopaedics

## Information for patients, parents and guardians

Your child has been placed on the list to have an operation under the care of the children's orthopaedic team at Southampton Children's Hospital.

This factsheet is designed to explain what happens now, so you and your child know what to expect.

**Your consultant is:** .....

### What happens next?

- You will receive a letter with an operation date on it (your child's admission letter) – this may take several months.
- The scheduled date of your child's operation may be within a few weeks of the letter.
- The letter will contain an information leaflet about children's services, which will tell you what to bring with you to hospital.

### If your child is on the contraceptive pill

This needs to be stopped six weeks before the operation. (If this has not happened, she will need to receive daily injections of an anti-clotting medicine for up to six weeks after the operation). Therefore it might be advisable for her to stop taking the contraceptive pill while you are waiting for the operation date to come through. Your GP can advise you about this.

### On the day of surgery

- Your admission letter will ask that you phone the ward on the morning to check that there will be a bed available for your child.
- It's important that you arrive at the time stated on the letter. This helps our theatre lists to run on time.
- It's possible that your child's bed might not be ready when you arrive. If this happens, you and your child may be asked to sit in a waiting area until we are able to admit you properly.
- Only one parent can stay on the ward overnight. The information leaflet that will be sent with your child's admission letter will give you more information about this.

### Other important information

- remember to bring in all of your child's regular medications, clearly labelled with their name
- your child must not be wearing nail varnish
- currently there aren't individual patient televisions on ward G3

### When to get in touch

Please contact our nurse practitioners if any of the following apply:

- parental responsibility does not belong to the person bringing your child into hospital
- you live in a flat without a lift and are concerned about your child's access after their orthopaedic operation
- your child has additional needs you feel we need to be made aware of before they come in for their operation
- your child is MRSA positive
- you require any other information or advice.

### Our contact details

Ward nurse practitioners

Telephone: **02381 206462** or **07584 402438**

Clinic advanced nurse practitioners

Telephone: **07584 402438** (answerphone)

### G3 Ward

Telephone: **023 8120 6486**

### Find out more about coming into hospital

For further information about getting ready to come into hospital while you wait for your child's admission letter, visit our website **[www.uhs.nhs.uk/childrenshospital](http://www.uhs.nhs.uk/childrenshospital)** and download the Children's services booklet.

For a translation of this document, or a version in another format such as easy read, large print, Braille or audio, please telephone **023 8120 4688**.

For help preparing for your visit, arranging an interpreter or accessing the hospital please visit **[www.uhs.nhs.uk/additionalneeds](http://www.uhs.nhs.uk/additionalneeds)**

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