

# Paediatric Assessment Unit (PAU)

This leaflet explains more about PAU. If you have any further questions, please speak to a doctor or nurse caring for your child.

## What is PAU?

PAU is a six bed mixed sex short stay unit managed by the emergency department, for children and young people who are likely to require a stay of less than 12 hours. PAU provides an area for further observation and assessment.

Further investigations may be required for your child and the doctor or nurse looking after him/her will keep you informed. You may also be waiting for your child to be seen by specialist doctors who cover the whole hospital, so please be patient.

The doctors and nurses looking after your child are also responsible for children across the department and will need to see the most seriously ill children first; this may result in some delay. We will try our best to avoid this and to keep you updated.

Regular checks and observations will be carried out on your child during his/her stay, which will help decisions to discharge your child home.

You may be asked to obtain urine or stool samples from your child and/or carry out a 'fluid challenge'. The nursing staff will show you how to do and record this.

A responsible adult must stay with your child during their admission and we only have room for **ONE** parent to stay overnight.

There are toys, games and a small play area available. We also have a play specialist within our department.

## Food and Drink

There is food and drink available for your child and a range of formula milks and purée is available for babies.

Food will be offered to breast feeding mothers.

There is a range of food and drink facilities within the hospital – please ask staff for further information.

## Discharge

A discharge summary with details of your child's medical condition and further advice/recommendations if necessary, will be sent to your GP. A copy can be requested for discharge. Your child may require follow up appointments and the medical team in charge of your child's care will inform you of this.

## Transport

Your child could be discharged at any time of the day or night.

Please make arrangements with family or friends for transport home as we are unable to provide transport. You can call a taxi at main reception.

**If you become concerned regarding your child's health while on the unit please inform your allocated nurse.**

**For more information leaflets on conditions, procedures, treatments and services offered at our hospitals, please visit [www.stgeorges.nhs.uk](http://www.stgeorges.nhs.uk)**

## Additional services

### Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

PALS can offer you on-the-spot advice and information when you have comments or concerns about our services or the care you have received. You can visit the PALS office between 9.30am and 4.30pm, Monday to Friday in the main corridor between Grosvenor and Lanesborough wings (near the lift foyer).

**Tel:** 020 8725 2453 **Email:** [pals@stgeorges.nhs.uk](mailto:pals@stgeorges.nhs.uk)

### NHS Choices

NHS Choices provides online information and guidance on all aspects of health and healthcare, to help you make decisions about your health.

**Web:** [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

### NHS 111

You can call 111 when you need medical help fast but it's not a 999 emergency. NHS 111 is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Calls are free from landlines and mobile phones.

**Tel:** 111

### AccessAble

You can download accessibility guides for all our services by searching 'St George's Hospital' on the AccessAble website ([www.accessable.co.uk](http://www.accessable.co.uk)).

The guides are designed to ensure everyone – including those with accessibility needs – can access our hospital and community sites with confidence.

