

# Paediatric Referral to Plastic Surgery Department

This leaflet explains about your child's referral to the plastic surgery department, including what you can expect when you come to hospital.

If you have any further questions, please speak to a doctor or nurse caring for your child.

## Why has my child been referred to the plastics surgery team?

Your child has been referred for review of their recent injury.

Photos of your child's injury have been sent to the team via the secure Telemedicine Referral Image Portal System (TRIPS). These have been reviewed and advice has been given to the doctors currently treating your child.

## When should I bring my child in to hospital?

We need you to be at the hospital by **7.30am** on your child's admission day, to allow the nursing and medical staff time to prepare you and your child for surgery.

Your child's date of admission is: \_\_\_\_\_

## Where should I bring my child?

Please report to **Jungle ward** which is on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of Lanesborough wing.

We understand sometimes people travel long distances to get to St George's Hospital - if you are held up in traffic or running late, please let us know by calling the ward to which you have been asked to report. The contact number is:

**Jungle ward on 020 8725 2034**

## What happens on the day of admission?

Your child will need to arrive on the ward "nil by mouth" (NBM). This means they can eat and drink as normal up until midnight the night before admission and they must have a glass of water before 7.30am on the morning of admission. Please do not give your child any milk including breast milk or fresh fruit juices or allow them to chew gum as this could result in a delay in their treatment.

A team of doctors and nurses will speak to you and your child about the accident and your child's general health.

As we have received photos of your child's injury via TRIPS, we will try not to remove any dressings s/he has on his / her wound. If there is any doubt whether surgery is needed or if the photos are not of good quality, we may need to remove the dressing.

## **Will my child definitely need an operation?**

Not all injuries need an operation. Some can be treated with dressings or splinting for broken bones. All options will be discussed with you so that you can make an informed decision about your child's treatment.

If an operation is needed, a consent form will need to be signed giving permission. The form must be signed by a person with parental responsibility for the child. The form cannot be signed by a grandparent or step-parent unless they have legally been given parental responsibility for the child. If this is the case, please bring the paperwork confirming this with you.

## **If my child needs an operation, will they have a general anaesthetic?**

Depending upon the age of your child and their injury, it may be possible for the operation to be performed under local anaesthetic. This means that your child is awake during the operation and the area of surgery is numbed with an injection. Your child will have to be able to sit still and be happy to have one or two injections of local anaesthetic. This is normally only suitable for children over 11 or 12 years of age. If your child is younger but you think they would be happy with this, please discuss it with your doctor.

Otherwise a general anaesthetic will be used and your child will be asleep during their operation. You will be able to speak with the anaesthetist to discuss the anaesthetic.

## **Asking for your consent**

It is important that you feel involved in decisions about your child's care. You will be asked to sign a consent form to say that you agree for your child to have the treatment and understand what it involves. You can withdraw your consent at any time, even if you have said 'yes' previously. If you would like more details about our consent process, please ask for a copy of our policy.

## **When will my child be able to go home?**

With most injuries you should be able to take your child home later the same day.

You will probably be at the hospital most of the day, as there may be a wait before your child's operation. We try and keep delays as short as possible but unfortunately, they do sometimes happen.

If your child has had a general anaesthetic they will need to be observed on the ward for a couple of hours after their operation.

With some injuries your child may need to stay in hospital for a few days. We may know about this before your child's operation or it may not be decided until afterwards. If this happens, the doctor performing the operation will speak to you and explain why your child needs to stay in hospital. One parent will be able to stay on the ward overnight with your child.

## **What are the parking arrangements at the hospital?**

You can get a parking form from your child's nurse to fill in for reduced-rate parking for one car per child. You can either pay £8 per day or £10 per week. You need to ask your child's nurse to sign the form and hand it in to the security office on the ground floor of Grosvenor wing, who will then give you a parking card.

## Will my child have a follow-up appointment?

This will depend on your child's injury. The doctor and nurses will tell you about this and give you specific post-operative advice when your child is discharged.

## Contact us

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's referral to the plastic surgery department, please contact the on call plastic surgery senior house officer via the hospital switchboard 080 8672 1255 (24 hours).

**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.

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