

Admission information for operations or planned tests

This leaflet gives more information about preparing your child to come to Evelina London Children's Hospital for their procedure. If you have any questions, please speak to a doctor or nurse caring for your child.

When your child should stop eating and drinking (fasting)

Details of when your child should stop eating and drinking can be found in their appointment letter. Please follow these instructions carefully. If you do not follow these instructions, your child might not be allowed to have their surgery or planned test.

Giving permission (consent) for your child's operation

Please make sure that your child comes to the hospital with someone who can legally give permission for treatment. If possible, this should be the person who signed the consent form in the outpatients' appointment. Please read the information you were given with the outpatient appointment letter.

Please note that in law, a parent might not automatically be able to give consent for their child's operation or planned test.

Taking their usual medicines on the day of surgery

Please bring all of your child's current medicines with you into hospital. If your child is due to have medicine when they are fasting, please check with the nurse at their pre-assessment appointment if they can take their medicine on the day of their procedure.

What your child can wear on the day of the procedure

Your child will not be allowed to wear jewellery, nail polish or false nails during their surgery or planned test. Please remember to remove these items before they arrive at the hospital. It might be helpful for them to wear clothes that button up the front, or loose-fitting clothes so that they do not catch on any dressings

Arriving on the ward

It is really important that you arrive on time. If you're late it might mean that your child has to wait longer to be seen, and might not be able to have their procedure.

Your child will be seen by the medical and nursing team before their procedure. They will check that your child is well enough for their procedure, and they can answer any questions you have.

Your child can play until the time of their procedure. There are play areas and activities on the ward to distract your child, or you can bring in something to occupy them.

Pain after your child's procedure

We will give your child medicine to manage their pain and help make them as comfortable as possible.

Could your child's procedure be cancelled?

On rare occasions, we might have to cancel your child's procedure at late notice. We try really hard to avoid this, but if it does happen we will book your child in for the next available time that is convenient for you.

Checking that we have your correct contact details

It is important that we have your correct contact details. Please tell the admissions officer or the ward clerk if there have been any changes to your child's name, address, phone number or GP.

Visitors on the day of the operation or planned test

Please try to not bring other children on the day of your child's procedure. You can go with your child to the anaesthetic room, but other children are not allowed. If you want to go with your child to the anaesthetic room, you will need to make arrangements for them to be supervised, as we cannot do look after them.

Will food be provided?

When your child can eat after their procedure, food will be provided. We also provide food for any mothers who are breastfeeding. We cannot provide food for other family members. There are restaurants and cafés throughout the hospital, and next door in St Thomas' Hospital.

Is accommodation provided at the hospital for family members?

We can provide accommodation for **1 parent only**. On the ward, this will be a pull-down bed next to your child. If your child is staying on the high-dependency unit (HDU) or the paediatric intensive care unit (PICU), other arrangements will be made. Staff will discuss this with you on the day.

We have limited accommodation for children who cannot get to the hospital for 7.30am on the day of their procedure. The admissions officer will organise accommodation if the patient meets the criteria we use.

Getting to the hospital

Parking spaces are limited and we do not subsidise the car parking charges. The London Congestion Charge applies Monday to Friday, 7am to 6pm. See [website: www.tfl.gov.uk](http://www.tfl.gov.uk) for details.

More travel information is available on our [website: www.evelinalondon.nhs.uk](http://www.evelinalondon.nhs.uk)

Planning to take your child home

We plan to discharge your child as soon as possible after their procedure. Please make plans for your child to be collected as soon as possible after the doctors say your child can leave. You might want to think about the arrangements for travelling home, and bring a car seat if necessary. If your child is discharged later in the day, we advise that you have arranged school pick up for your other children.

More information

More information, including a video about having an operation or planned test at Evelina London can be found on our **website:** www.evelinalondon.nhs.uk/operations

Evelina London Medicines Helpline

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's medicines, please speak to the staff caring for them or contact our helpline, **phone:** 020 7188 3003, Monday to Friday, 10am to 5pm

Your comments and concerns

For advice, support or to raise a concern, contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS), **phone:** 020 7188 8801 **email:** gstt.pals-gstt@nhs.net.

Language and accessible support services

If you need an interpreter or information about your care in a different language or format, please contact the department your appointment is with.

NHS 111

This service offers medical help and advice from fully trained advisers supported by experienced nurses and paramedics. Available over the phone 24 hours a day, **phone:** 111 **web:** www.111.nhs.uk

NHS website

This website gives information and guidance on all aspects of health and healthcare, to help you take control of your health and wellbeing, **web:** www.nhs.uk

Get involved and have your say: become a member of the Trust

Members of Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust contribute to the organisation on a voluntary basis. We count on them for feedback, local knowledge and support. Membership is free and it is up to you how much you get involved. To find out more, please get in touch, **phone:** 0800 731 0319 **email:** gstt.members@nhs.net **web:** www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk/membership