



Sky cardiology pre-assessment clinic

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This is an outpatient appointment to prepare you and your family for your child's procedure and hospital stay. We check that they are fit and well for operation.

The pre-assessment appointment is usually arranged for about 2 weeks before your child's hospital admission. Please allow 3 to 4 hours for all the tests to be completed.

Aims of the appointment

By doing tests before the day of the procedure, results are available in time to reduce the risk of cancellation. This avoids delays and allows us time to repeat tests if necessary.

Who you will meet

You will meet the pre-assessment nurses and the medical teams that will be doing your child's scans and blood tests. You will also be seen by one of the doctors or nurses who will ask questions about your child's medical history and current health condition. If you have any letters or information that might help with this, please bring them to the appointment with you.

The pre-assessment nurses will speak to you about your child's admission, and can explain the procedure and what to expect. They will also talk to you and your child about the visiting rules, accommodation, and what to expect when they are in hospital. It can be helpful to think of any questions before the appointment and write them down.

At the pre-assessment clinic

The pre-assessment nurse will explain what will happen before and after your child's hospital admission. You can ask questions about coming into hospital. You might meet the doctor that will look after your child for their procedure, but they are not always available. The information from the pre-assessment clinic will be sent to them for review before you come into hospital.

Please be aware that the tests your child has and the people that you see at this appointment will vary depending on the reason for the hospital admission.

Tests your child will need

- Electrocardiograph (ECG)
- Heart scan (ECHO)
- Chest X-ray
- Various blood tests

These will be discussed with you as they depend on the condition and the reason for your child's hospital admission. Your child can have local anaesthetic (numbing cream) put on before blood is taken.

Blood tests can include some or all of the following:

- FBC (full blood count), to check your number of red blood cells
- U&Es (urea and electrolytes), to check your kidneys are working properly
- Clotting, to check how long it takes your blood to clot

- G&S (group and save), to check your blood group. If your child has not had a G&S blood test at our hospital before, you will need separate blood samples to be taken to be sure of your child's blood group. This is in case a blood transfusion is needed during their hospital stay.
- You will receive information about blood transfusions

The pre-assessment nurse will also arrange routine infection screening swabs. Everyone who is admitted to the hospital has these. These might be done at the pre-assessment appointment or the day before your child's hospital admission. If the swabs are needed the day before, these will be arranged for before you check in to the hospital accommodation.

In accordance with hospital policy, all patients aged 12 years who could be pregnant will have a pregnancy test.

After the appointment

If your child doesn't need to stay on Sky ward the night before the procedure, you might have accommodation booked at Gassiot House, which is on hospital grounds. The pre-assessment nurse will tell you when to return to hospital.

Gassiot House Lodge is a short walk from the main entrance of the hospital. Please see the St Thomas' Hospital map, **phone** 020 7188 0276.

Where you need to come

The pre-assessment clinic will take place at Walrus outpatients, on the 1st floor of Evelina London Children's Hospital. Your appointment letter explains how to get here.

What to bring with you?

Please bring a list of all medicines your child takes regularly. If your child needs medicines through the day, please bring these with you so that they can take these as usual.

You are likely to be at the pre-assessment appointment for about 3 to 4 hours, so please bring food, snacks and drinks with you.

If your child is under 5 years old, please bring their red book.

For more information about your child's stay at Evelina London, please visit [web](http://www.evelinalondon.nhs.uk) www.evelinalondon.nhs.uk.

Contact us

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Sky ward on [phone](tel:02071888849) 020 7188 8849.

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

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 **email** letstalkmedicines@gstt.nhs.uk

Pharmacy Medicines Helpline

If you have any questions or concerns about your medicines, please speak to the staff caring for you or contact our helpline, **phone** 020 7188 8748, Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm, **email** mymedicines@gstt.nhs.uk

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** pals@gstt.nhs.uk. To make a complaint contact the resolution department **phone** 020 7188 3514 **email** complaints2@gstt.nhs.uk

Language and accessible support services

If you need an interpreter or information about your care in a different language or format, please get in touch, **phone** 020 7188 8815 **email** languagesupport@gstt.nhs.uk

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