



The children's stroke service

What is the children's stroke service?

The children's stroke service gives advice and treatment to children affected by stroke in infancy, childhood or in their teenage years.

A stroke happens when the blood supply to part of the brain is cut off. The causes and effects of a stroke are likely to be different depending on how old the child is, which parts of the brain are affected, and their medical history.

We offer a range of advice and care on medical treatment and rehabilitation/therapy, depending on each child's needs. We work closely with families to make sure that you have the information you need and access to appropriate help and support in your local community.

The service is run by doctors, therapists and support workers who have expert knowledge of stroke care. We also work closely with local teams in the community and in other hospitals to support your child's care.

Who can use the service?

Children can be referred to the service following an admission at the Evelina London Children's Hospital, or by their paediatrician, paediatric neurologist or other medical consultant.

Where do I need to go?

There are a number of stroke clinics that run on different days and in different locations. Your appointment letter will indicate the specific location of the clinic you have been invited to. Directions to the hospital can be found on our website:

www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk/our-services/childrens/finding-your-way/getting-to-evelina-london.aspx

Who will I meet?

Some clinics focus more on medical advice, whilst others focus more on therapy advice. Who you meet will depend on which stroke clinic you attend. This may include:

- **Consultant children's neurologist**
To give advice on medical management and treatment options for stroke.
- **Consultant occupational therapist**
To give advice on therapy management and treatment options for stroke.
- **Consultant children's haematologist**
To give advice on medical management that relates to blood conditions.
- **Stroke Association child stroke support coordinator**
To give any additional advice and information, and to signpost to support services that the family may find helpful.

How long does it take?

The stroke clinic appointments can last up to one or two hours and may involve talking about your child's medical history, completing assessments and agreeing a plan for further assessment, treatment or review.

If you have specific questions or concerns that you would like the clinic to address, it can be useful to ask the person who refers you to include these in their letter. You can also talk to the child stroke support coordinator before your appointment on 07715 065925.

What do I need to bring with me?

Please bring along any recent letters from doctors or therapists involved in your child's care. It is also helpful to bring along your child's health record (the 'red book') and a list of any medication that your child is taking.

If your child is coming for an assessment by the occupational therapist, please make sure they are wearing appropriate clothing for the therapist to watch their movement, such as a t-shirt and leggings or shorts.

What happens next?

You will be sent a copy of any letters or reports that summarise discussions and treatment plans. These can also be sent to your GP and other appropriate professionals.

Useful sources of information

Stroke Association

t: 0303 3033 100

w: www.stroke.org.uk/childhood

Child Brain Injury Trust

t: 0303 303 2248

w: www.childbraininjurytrust.org.uk

Brain Injury Hub

w: www.braininjuryhub.co.uk

Cerebra

t: 0800 328 1159

w: www.cerebra.org.uk

Contact

t: 0808 808 3555

w: www.contact.org.uk

Contact us

If you have any questions or concerns about your appointment, please contact the clinic secretary on **020 7188 3993** (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm).

For more information leaflets on conditions, procedures, treatments and services offered at our hospitals, please visit

w: www.evelinalondon.nhs.uk/leaflets

Further information

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.

t: 020 7188 3003 10am to 5pm, Mon to Fri

e: letstalkmedicines@gstt.nhs.uk

Your comments and concerns

For advice, support or to raise a concern, contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS). To make a complaint, contact the complaints department. **t:** 020 7188 8801

(PALS) **e:** pals@gstt.nhs.uk

t: 020 7188 3514 (complaints)

e: 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.

t: 020 7188 8815

e: languagesupport@gstt.nhs.uk

NHS website

Online information and guidance on all aspects of health and healthcare, to help you take control of your health and wellbeing.

w: www.nhs.uk

Leaflet number: 3859/VER2

Date published: February 2019

Review date: February 2022

© 2019 Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust

A list of sources is available