

Orthopaedic pre-assessment

This leaflet gives information about the orthopaedic pre-assessment clinics (PACs). If you have any questions, please speak to the orthopaedic admissions officer (contact details at the end of this leaflet).

What is orthopaedic pre-assessment (PAC)?

Your child must have a PAC appointment before they can have surgery. It takes place in the Evelina London Ocean outpatient department, and is usually arranged 2 to 12 weeks before the surgery. You might not have a date for surgery confirmed when you're invited for the PAC.

The pre-assessment process can take up to 4 hours, depending on how complicated the planned surgery is. It often takes this long to meet all the members of the team who will be involved in your child's care. During the PAC you'll probably meet the surgeon, specialist nurse, occupational therapist, physiotherapist, and play therapy teams. Also, some tests might need to take place, which can include X-rays, clinical photography, height and weight measurement, heart rate, blood pressure, skin swabs, blood tests, and a general health assessment.

We encourage patients and carers to ask as many questions as possible, to make sure everyone is fully prepared for the surgery. We find these clinics can be very helpful, making a smooth journey for patients before, during and after orthopaedic surgery.

We understand that the PAC can be a long and tiring appointment, but our aim is to prepare you and your child for the experience of surgery and the recovery.

After the appointment, the information is evaluated by the team, who will then decide if it's safe for your child to have the surgery. Sometimes a member of the orthopaedic team will contact you after this clinic, if more tests or referrals are needed.

Who can come to the orthopaedic PAC?

It's very important that the patient comes to the PAC appointment. A parent or carer who has parental responsibility must also come to this appointment as consent for surgery will take place at this time. If you have any concerns about this, please let the team know before you come in. We welcome any local professionals involved in your child's care, if they want to come but please do tell us before the appointment.

Please tell the bookings team if you need an interpreter for the appointment, as this will need to be booked in advance.

Where you need to go

Orthopaedic PACs take place in Ocean outpatient department on the ground floor of Evelina London. Please check in at reception and watch the screens for where to go.

Please make sure the reception staff do not send you to the **general** pre-assessment department in St Thomas' Hospital, as this is a different service.

What you need to bring with you

Please bring with you a list of current medicines your child is taking, including the dose (amounts). Please include any medicines you buy from shops or pharmacies, and any herbal or homeopathic remedies.

It would be very helpful if you could also bring along the names and contact details (email and phone numbers) for any other healthcare professionals involved in your child's care. This would include physiotherapists, occupational therapists, community nurses, CAMHS, social workers, health visitors, and the school team. We'll also need details of any other hospitals your child goes to and the specialists they see there.

If your child has a specialised feeding, bowel, non-invasive ventilation (NIV), dystonia or seizure plan, a copy of this would be very helpful for their records, and could be used in preparation for their admission.

If you are going to consent for surgery, and are not the patient's biological parent, please bring proof from the courts, of parental responsibility.

If your child needs a sling for transfers, please bring this with you.

Please bring along any questions you want to ask the team.

You might find it useful to watch our films with your child, **What happens before your operation** and **On the day of your operation**. These films will help your child understand what will happen when they come to hospital. To access them, search for them on the Evelina London website, [web: http://www.evelinalondon.nhs.uk](http://www.evelinalondon.nhs.uk)

Contact us

If you have any questions or concerns about orthopaedic PACs, please contact the admissions officer, [phone 020 71882454](tel:02071882454), Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm. Out of hours for emergencies, please contact Savannah ward, [phone 020 7188 9204](tel:02071889204).

For more information on conditions, procedures, treatments and services offered at our hospitals, please visit [web: www.evelinalondon.nhs.uk/leaflets](http://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](tel:02071883003), 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](tel:02071888801) [email gstt.pals-gstt@nhs.net](mailto:gstt.pals-gstt@nhs.net)

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