

Pre-assessment appointments

This leaflet explains what a pre-assessment appointment is, and why it is important for your child to have one before their operation or planned procedure.

If your child needs to have an operation, or any planned procedure (test) under a general anaesthetic, they will be asked to come for a pre-assessment appointment.

At this appointment we make sure your child is well enough to have a general anaesthetic.

If your child has not had a pre-assessment appointment before the date of their admission, their operation or procedure will probably have to be delayed until a pre-assessment is done.

During the appointment

A nurse or nursing assistant will check your child's medical history, take their blood pressure, pulse, temperature and oxygen levels, as well as measure their height and weight. They will also take swabs. This is routine and checks for any infections that might affect your child's procedure.

Your child might need extra tests. These might include:

- blood tests
- ECG (electrocardiogram, to measure the electrical activity of the heart)
- X-rays

If your child needs any of these tests and it isn't possible to do them on the day of their pre-assessment, we will arrange for them to be done before your child's stay in hospital.

A health professional will talk to you about your child's medical history, and make sure we have all the information needed to assess their fitness for the anaesthetic. They will explain what will happen on the day, and give you and your child the opportunity to ask questions. If necessary the practitioner will refer you to the anaesthetist.

You will also be offered the chance to speak to the anaesthetist about the risks of a general anaesthetic for your child.

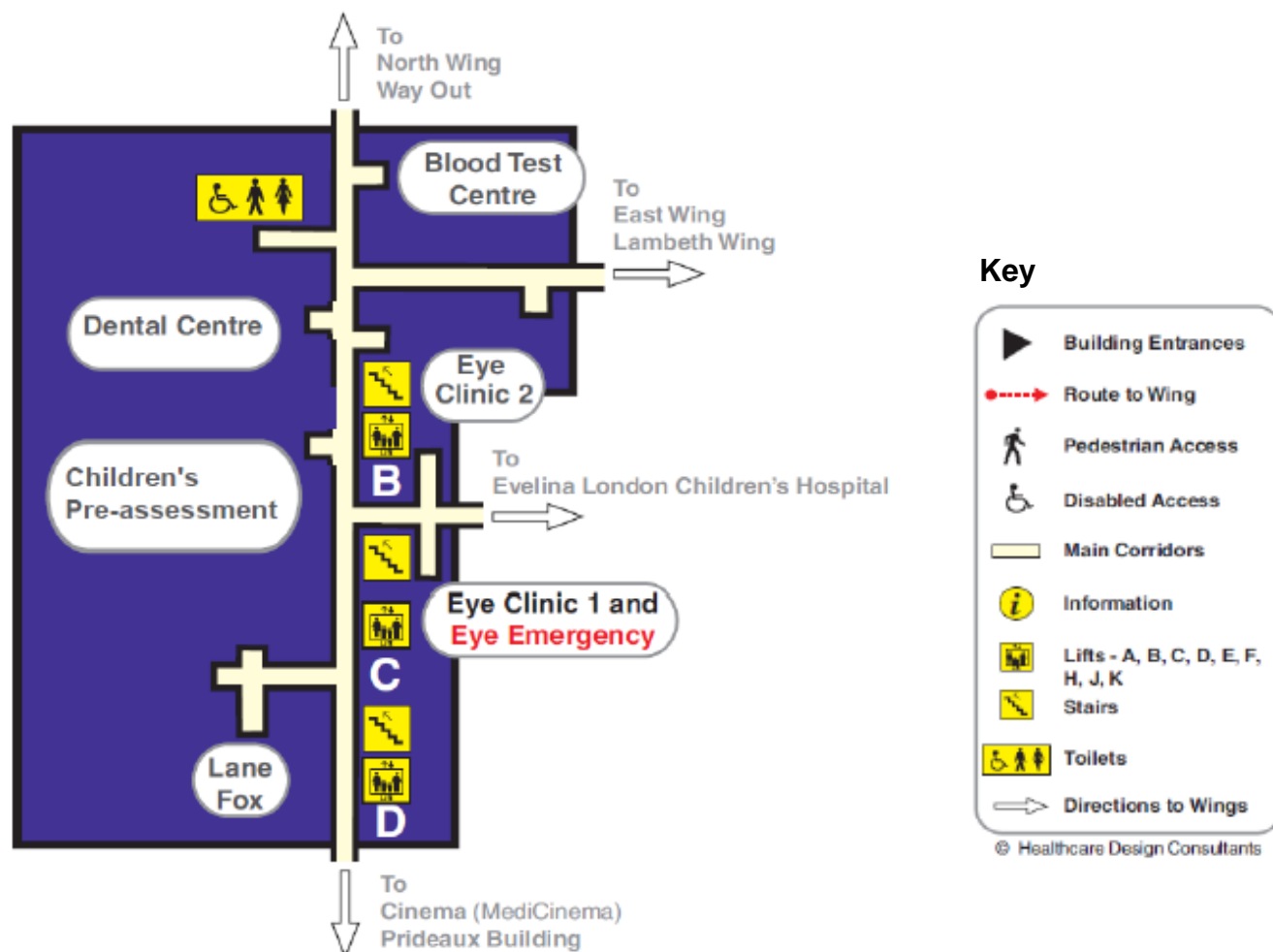
You might find it useful to watch our films with your child. They will help you both understand what will happen when your child comes to hospital.

- [What happens before your operation](#)
- [On the day of your operation](#)

Where you need to come

The pre-assessment clinic is on the ground floor, in South Wing at St Thomas' Hospital (next to Shephard's Hall restaurant).

Children's pre-assessment clinic, Ground floor, South Wing, St Thomas' Hospital



Contact us

If you have any questions about your appointment, please contact the pre-assessment clinic, **phone:** 020 7188 7188 extension 58209, Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.

For more information on conditions, procedures, treatments and services offered at our hospitals, please visit **website:** www.evelinalondon.nhs.uk/leaflets

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