

CLEFT SURGERY: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

NHS

Salisbury

NHS Foundation Trust

From CLAPA parents

WHAT TIME DO WE NEED TO BE AT THE HOSPITAL FOR?

The letter confirming the pre operation assessment and operation date will include the time of the admission

Parents need to call Sarum Ward at 7am on the day of admission. The number is **01722 336262** ext **2560/2561**



WHICH WARD DO WE GO TO BEFORE THE OPERATION?

Your child will be admitted to Sarum Ward unless stated otherwise on your admission letter

WHEN WILL OUR CHILD GO TO THEATRE, HOW LONG WILL WE WAIT?

We do our best to minimise waiting times for children before going to theatre. The surgical team on the day will be able to provide you with the best estimate

DO WE GET TO STAY WITH OUR CHILD WHILE THEY ARE HAVING THE ANAESTHETIC?

One parent is able to go to theatre but we will ask you to leave as soon as your child is under anaesthetic

HOW LONG WILL THE OPERATION LAST?

This varies depending on the specific operation, and the team will outline this in clinic when explaining the operation. The time away from the parents is always longer than the actual operating time

HOW LONG WILL THEY NEED TO STAY IN HOSPITAL?

Depending on the surgery your child is having, most children stay in one to two nights

Providing they are eating and drinking well and the ward and medical team are happy, your child will be discharged home

WILL WE BE CALLED TO THE RECOVERY ROOM BEFORE OUR CHILD WAKES UP?

The recovery nurses call parents as soon as their child is ready. This can vary between different children, as some wake more slowly than others

The recovery nurses may ask you to take a bottle of your baby's milk feed down with you

CAN BOTH PARENTS STAY? IF NOT, WHAT ACCOMMODATION NEARBY IS AVAILABLE?

Only one parent is able to stay on the ward overnight

Limited onsite accommodation for one other parent/carer is available at a cost of £15 per night. Bookings are taken on a first come first serve basis. Please discuss with the cleft office or cleft nursing team to arrange

Person Centred & Safe

Professional

Responsive

Friendly

Progressive

WILL OUR CLEFT NURSE BE AROUND?

One of the cleft nurses will try to visit your child on the ward after their operation. If this is not possible, one of them will visit the next day but not over the weekend

WILL WE GET TO TALK TO OUR SURGEON BEFORE AND AFTER THE OPERATION?

Yes, you will see Ms Fallico and her team when you come in on the day of surgery and again after the operation. The team does a ward round each morning and evening

WHAT PAIN RELIEF WILL OUR CHILD HAVE?

This varies according to the operation and also whether there are any medicines that your child cannot take

Usually there will be regular ibuprofen and paracetamol, and possibly morphine as a liquid by mouth

HOW LONG WILL OUR CHILD NEED TO TAKE PAIN RELIEF?

You will not be provided with pain relief on discharge and will need to provide your own ibuprofen and paracetamol at home.

We recommend that you give regular pain relief for one week after discharge but some children may require pain relief for up to two weeks

WHAT DO WE NEED TO PACK?

Any current medication that your child is taking

Clothes that open up at the front - they may get stained from dribbling after the operation so please do not bring anything too new or precious. Mittens or socks that can go on their hands to stop them putting their fingers in their mouth

Toiletries and nappies, and a soft toothbrush if your baby has teeth

Baby formula, bottles, teats and open cup

Favourite toys or comforter. There is also a playroom with toys on the ward

Money for meals (for parents) or own food from home (please label with date and name - this can be stored in our refrigerator on the ward)

WHAT ARE THE VISITING HOURS?

Parents, siblings and guardians are welcome to visit at anytime.

For other family members and visitors we ask that they come to the ward between **2pm** and **5pm** and **6pm** and **8pm** as this allows meal times to be uninterrupted and provides time for the children to rest.

ARE THERE PARKING PERMITS AVAILABLE?

The Sarum ward clerk can register your vehicle and you will be exempt from any charges. You will need to provide them with your car registration.

WHAT FOOD/ DRINK SHOULD WE BRING?

The hospital provides food and drink for your child but if your child has any particular favourite foods then you may like to bring them with you. Highchairs are available on the ward

If your child is having an operation to their palate they will need to have soft food for **2 - 4 weeks** after the surgery. We have a food leaflet for reference and ideas

WHAT FACILITIES ARE THERE FOR THE PARENTS?

The ward has a kitchen to make tea, coffee and other drinks, but the ward does not provide food for the parents

Parents have a fold up bed next to their child and a shared bathroom or en-suite if in a cubicle

Springs is the main canteen located on Level 2. **Marks and Spencer** coffee shop is by the main entrance. Check for opening times as these vary per day