



Information for  
patients and  
carers

## Dental Surgery for Children

Paediatric Dentistry

## Introduction

This leaflet is to give you information about the dental surgery your child is to undergo. Information regarding before and after the procedure is included. Your nurse on the day of the operation will ensure that you fully understand everything in the leaflet.

## What will happen on the day of surgery?

On arrival to the ward you will be shown to a bed space in the Day Case unit and your nurse will introduce themselves to you. Your nurse will complete the admission paperwork and record your child's weight, temperature and pulse. Sometimes additional x-rays may be required.

The dentist/surgeon performing the surgery will come discuss it with you and go through the consent form if this hasn't been completed prior to attending the appointment. The anaesthetist or surgeon will discuss the anaesthesia and the different methods which are available. If you have any concerns about this please feel free to raise them and we will address your concerns on the ward.

Your child will be given some pain killers (paracetamol and ibuprofen) prior to the operation to ensure they remain comfortable. You will be informed when it is your child's turn to go to theatre and informed of any changes to this by a member of the team. You can escort your child to theatre and stay with them until they are asleep. You will then be escorted back to the ward and shown where you can wait where refreshments are available, for shorter procedures we may ask you to wait in a waiting room close to theatre. Your child can wear their own clothes to theatre, but please be mindful of damage to clothes. Pyjamas are the most comfortable, however onesies are not appropriate.

## What happens during the operation?

Your child will have a general anaesthetic for their surgery, this will have been discussed pre operatively. The surgeon may use a local anaesthetic given by injection to numb the mouth whilst your child is asleep. You will be advised of this when you sign the consent form. Whilst asleep the dentist performs a full examination, either owing to time passing or to difficulties in examination at the new patient appointment sometimes we detect additional damaged teeth at this stage. The dentist will either remove or fill these damaged teeth as appropriate so that your child has a perfectly healthy mouth when they wake up.

## What happens after the operation?

Your child will have to recover from the general anaesthetic. They may feel groggy for a while and their mouth may feel tender and swollen. There may be some initial bleeding and your nurse may ask your child to bite on a dental pack for a few minutes to stop the bleeding. If local anaesthetic has been given your child's mouth will feel numb and your child will require supervision eating/drinking until this has worn off. Your nurse will perform some basic observations of your child whilst they recover on the ward and painkillers can be given if required. The nurse will then explain any additional treatment which was carried out and whether the dentist/surgeon needed to place stitches. You will be advised if an outpatient appointment is required and how you will receive this. Most children are able to leave 30-60 minutes after returning to the ward, some are ready to go sooner, and one or two stay longer.

Most children are ready to leave whilst the dentist/surgeon is still operating and our staff nurses usually lead discharge. If you want to speak to the dentist/surgeon then let the nurses know and they'll come up when they can.

## Caring for your child at home

Please give your child regular pain killers for the next 48hrs-72hrs. If your child requires antibiotics you will be advised when to give them and how to store them. Your child may also need to use a mouth wash – use as directed by your nurse. If your child has stitches in place they are dissolvable. Your child may have a special dressing in the mouth – some are dissolvable and some may need to be removed within a week. An appointment will be given to you if this is the case. The dressing can feel uncomfortable. Clots in the gum where the teeth have been removed is a normal part of the healing process. Please discourage your child from putting their tongue where the tooth has been removed.

**A soft diet** such as soup and yoghurts should be given for 24 hours – avoid rough foods like toast, crisps and biscuits which can dislodge the clots and start bleeding. Do not use straws as the sucking can cause the clots to be dislodged. If your child feels sick give small amounts of water and then reintroduce soft diet as your child improves. Avoid rice for that first 24 hours as it can pack into the socket and become sore.

Your child may brush their teeth as normal taking care around any sore extraction sites, if there have been multiple teeth taken out all around the mouth it would be best to leave brushing until the following day. It's important to keep your child's mouth clean.

If bleeding occurs ask your child to sit upright and bite down on a roll of towelling or flannel for at least 15 minutes. To make this more effective, soak the flannel in hot water from the tap first and then wring out so it's just warm and damp, take care that the pack isn't too hot. If the bleeding doesn't stop contact ward 8, the number is on the last page of this leaflet.

Your child may return to school or nursery over the following two days depending on the type of surgery and when they feel comfortable. Your nurse will advise you.

## Contact details

Should you require further advice or information please contact:

Ward 8 Children's Day Case – 07783848196/01772 524913

Available Monday – Friday 07:00- 17:30

Ward 8 Children's Assessment Unit – 01772 523632

Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

## Sources of further information

[www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk](http://www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk)

[www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

[www.patient.co.uk](http://www.patient.co.uk)

[www.accessable.co.uk](http://www.accessable.co.uk)

All our patient information leaflets are available on our website for patients to access and download:

[www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets](http://www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets)

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Lancashire Teaching Hospitals is a smoke-free site.

On 31 May 2017 Lancashire Teaching Hospitals became a smoke-free organisation. From that date smoking is not permitted anywhere on any of our premises, either inside or outside the buildings. Our staff will ask you about your smoking status when you come to hospital and will offer you support and advice about stopping smoking including Nicotine Replacement Therapy to help manage your symptoms of withdrawal.

If you want to stop smoking you can also contact the Quit Squad Freephone 0800 328 6297.

Please ask if you would like help in understanding this information. This information can be made available in large print and in other languages.

**Gujarati:**

આ માહિતીને સમજવામાં સહાયતા જોઈતી હોય તો કૃપા કરીને પૂછો. આ માહિતી મોટા છપાણામાં અને અન્ય ભાષામાં ઉપલબ્ધ કરી શકાય છે.

**Romanian:**

Vă rugăm să întrebați dacă aveți nevoie de ajutor pentru înțelegerea acestor informații. Aceste informații pot fi puse la dispoziție în format mare și în alte limbi.”

**Polish:**

Poinformuj nas, jeśli potrzebna jest ci pomoc w zrozumieniu tych informacji. Informacje te można również udostępnić dużym drukiem oraz w innych językach

**Punjabi:**

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਸਮਝਣ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਮਦਦ ਲੈਣੀ ਚਾਹੋਗੇ ਤਾਂ ਕਰਿਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਇਸ ਬਾਰੇ ਪੁੱਛੋ। ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਵੱਡੇ ਪ੍ਰਿੰਟ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰਨਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਮੁਹੱਈਆ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੈ।

**Urdu:**

دو سر ی زبانوں او ر بڑی اگر آپ کو ہی معلومات سمجھنے کے لئے مدد کی ضرورت ہے تو یی چھپا یں یبھ ابی دست بو یسکت ہے برا ئ مہر یان پو یی چھدی۔ معلومات

**Arabic:**

مطبوعة بأحرف كبيرة و بلغات إذا كنت تريد مساعدة في فهم هذه المعلومات يرجى أن تطلب أخرى يمكن توفير هذه المعلومات

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