

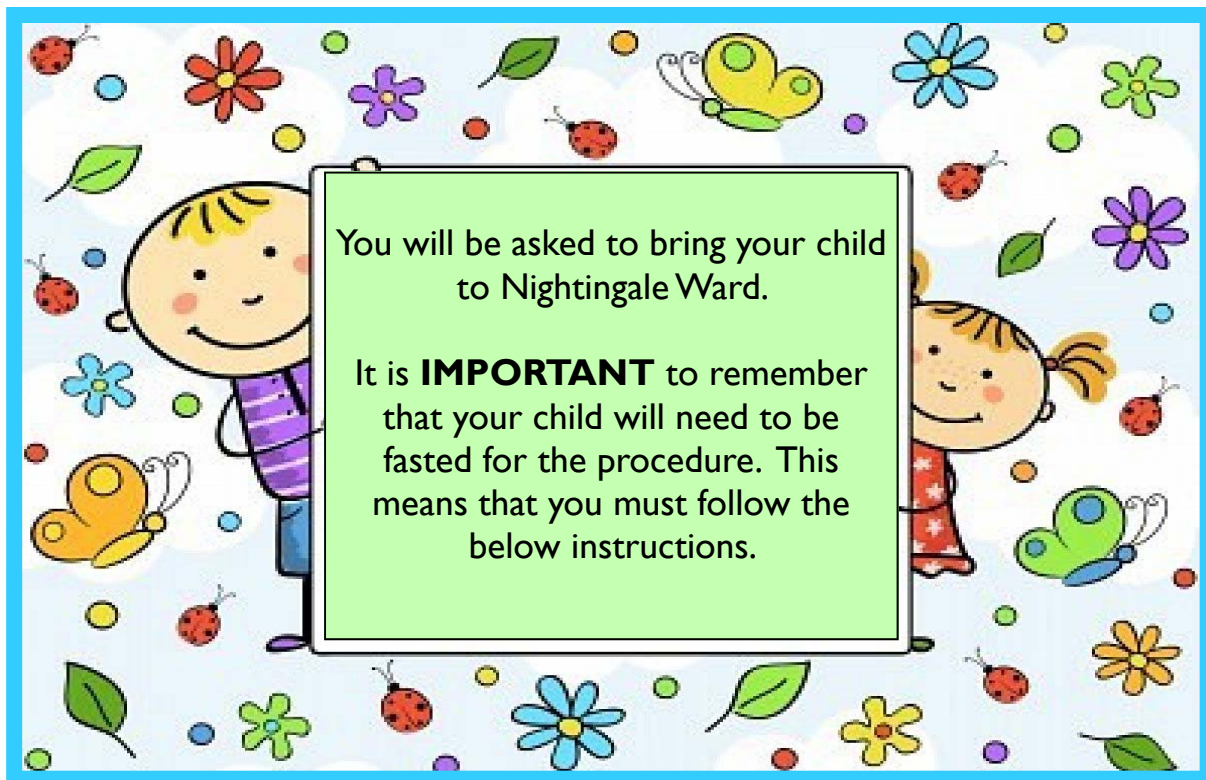
Tell Me All About...

Children's Oral Surgery



Chesterfield Royal Hospital
NHS Foundation Trust





Children often have to have oral surgery that requires a general anaesthetic. This leaflet provides information for you about the day of the operation.

These are the latest times that you should give your child anything to eat or drink:

- Before 7am – Your child can have their normal breakfast and fluids.
- Before 11.30 am – Your child can have a drink of water or weak dilute cordial but not a fizzy drink.
- Between 11.30am and the appointment – Your child must not eat or drink anything.

On arrival to the ward the nurse will go through the admission process, checking your child's details and taking observations. Your child will be seen by an anaesthetist who will check that your child is medically fit for an anaesthetic and discuss the best way to put your child to sleep. A hospital play specialist will also prepare your child for theatre. They will go through a theatre book which shows your child stage by stage of the theatre process from arriving to the ward to going home.

“Magic cream” will be put on to both of your child’s hands and may be elbows (feet too in smaller children). This is to help numb the area where the initial needle is placed for cannulation. It is important to remember that the needle is only inserted for a very short period of time.

Your child will be given a gown to put on prior to going to theatre, if you feel that putting this gown on early may lead to your child becoming anxious it can be put on just before they are taken to theatre.

You are able to accompany your child up to theatre. Two family members are able to accompany your child to the theatre reception but due to lack of space in the anaesthetic room only one parent should go through to this room.

Once your child goes to sleep you can go back to nightingale ward and have a drink whilst your child is in theatre.

When your child is awake enough for a parent to go to the post anaesthetic room (theatre recovery) they will call nightingale ward to ask you to go up. A nurse will follow shortly after to return your child to nightingale ward for your child to recover further.

The time it takes for your child to recover so they are fit to go home varies from child to child; therefore unfortunately we cannot give you a specific time that your child can go home. There are certain criteria that your child will need to meet before they go home which your nurse will discuss with you.

Most likely your child will have had a local anaesthetic to the operation site to ensure your child is comfortable.

Your child will be encouraged to eat and drink when they are ready to do so. Regular observations will be taken to monitor your child’s condition following the operation. There may be some oozing from the operation site and this will also be monitored. Blood will mix with the saliva and can make it look worse

Your child may feel sick but this is normal due to the anaesthetic.

The cannula will be left in your child's hand until just before discharge as any anti sickness medications would be given via the cannula. Your child may find this upsetting but it is important to try and keep this in as long as possible.

Once your child have had something to eat and drink, and passed urine, and also been on the ward post operatively for more than 2 hours they are able to go home, don't be surprised if your child takes longer as mentioned before it varies from child to child.

If your child is experiencing any pain it is important to let a member of staff know so pain relief can be given.

UP TO 24 HOURS AFTER THE EXTRACTION

- Avoid mouth washing as this disturbs the blood clots that are part of the healing process, unless advised to do so with corsodyl mouthwash prescribed by the surgeons
 - Encourage your child to drink plenty but avoid hot drinks
 - Give your child soft foods as the jaw may be stiff, avoid spicy foods
 - Do not let your child disturb the surgical site with fingers or tongue
 - If your child experiences pain please give children's paracetamol preparations (e.g. Calpol, Dispol) and Ibuprofen preparations (e.g. Nurofen) according to the instructions on the packaging
 - Encourage your child to rest, they should not participate in any exercise and kept away from nursery or school for a minimum of 24 hours
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AFTER 24 HOURS AFTER THE EXTRACTION

Encourage your child to use a gentle mouth rinse with warm salt water or mouth wash prescribed by the surgeons as directed.

- Your child should start tooth brushing but avoid the surgical site
- Your child should be fit to return back to school 1-2 days after surgery
- Your child can now return to normal activities.

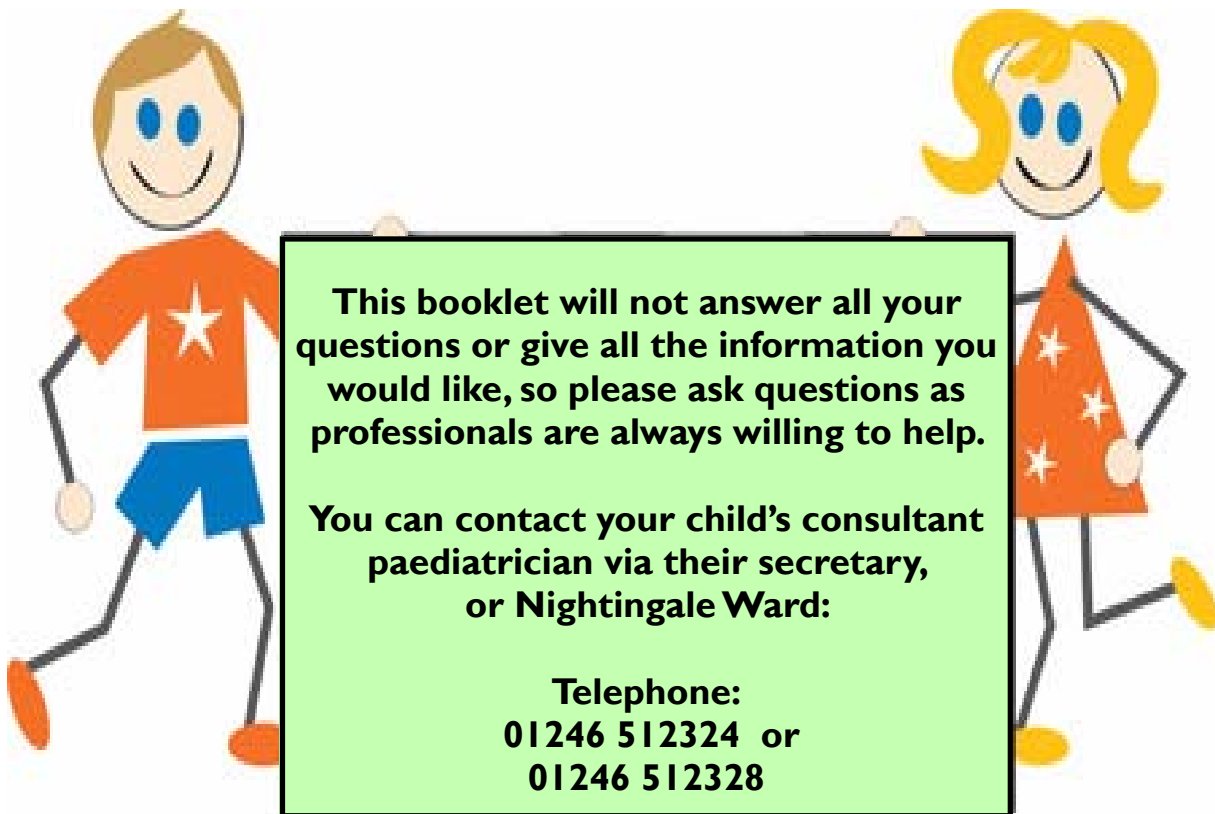
BLEEDING AND SIGNS OF INFECTION

There may be some bleeding. Don't be alarmed. Identify the area of the bleeding and place a clean handkerchief or gauze over the area and apply pressure by biting down on the dressing. If this continues over the 30 minutes contact nightingale ward.

An infection following surgery may require further treatment. Signs to look for are:

- Foul smell and taste from surgical site
- Discharge from the site
- Pus filled swelling.

Date 2012



First introduced: March 2012
Next review: March 2014