

Children

Children are usually accommodated in Ward 16, an eight bedded unit.

At times when there are fewer admissions, children are accommodated in the two bedded ward 15 or in single rooms.

These arrangements are made prior to admission depending on the beds booked on that day.

Ward Facilities:

- We are an 8- bedded ward that specialises in the care of children with Ear, Nose, Throat and Eye conditions, providing care for In Patients and Day Cases. Specialist nursing staff will care for, educate and assist you and your child during your stay with us.
- Doctors' ward rounds are Monday to Friday: 8am until 9am and 4pm until 5 pm, these are approximate times. Weekend ward rounds are 10am approximately.
- We have open visiting hours for parents but would request that all other visitors depart by 8.30pm.
- **One parent is welcome to stay overnight with their child.** We will endeavour to provide a camp bed for them to sleep on. As space and camp beds are limited it may be necessary for the parent to sleep in an armchair overnight. On admission, please let nursing staff know if you wish to avail of the camp bed so we can make the necessary arrangements.
- Toys are available for your child to play with. Please ask a member of staff about these if they are not in the room. You may also find it helpful to bring in one or two of your child's favourite toys, books, colouring books, colours, DVDs or videos.
- A coin-operated pay phone is available nearby on the ground floor, West Wing ward. **Mobile phones are permitted**, but there may be occasions and particular areas within the hospital where their use is restricted or prohibited. Please turn off during Doctors' ward rounds
- There is a TV, on the ward.
- Please do not take your child off the ward without informing staff.
- In the interest of each child's Health and Safety, **Hot drinks are not permitted in the ward area**

Who will you meet?

Nursing Team:

They will help prepare your child for surgery and look after your child throughout their stay.

Anaesthetist:

This professional keeps your child asleep and safe during surgery.

Theatre Nurse:

A nurse who cares for your child while they are asleep and assists the surgeon.

Anaesthetic Nurses:

They assist the anaesthetist putting your child to sleep and they also care for your child while they are asleep.

Doctor/Surgeon:

Provides your child's ongoing medical care. Performs your child's surgery.

Recovery Room Nurses:

Take care of your child after surgery.

What will happen before surgery?

On arrival to the ward, you will be greeted by one of the Nursing Team who will familiarise you and your child with the ward environment. Your child will be assessed by the admitting Nurse, a Doctor from your Consultant's medical team and a member of the Anaesthetic team.

We will discuss your child's Plan of Care with you and endeavour to meet any special requirements you may have.

Important information you need to tell staff.

If your child or any close family member have had RECENT INFECTIOUS DISEASES e.g. Chickenpox, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, T.B. or in contact with MRSA, please inform our staff.

It is routine to check all children for head lice while they are in Hospital. If head lice or nits are found it is essential that the child is treated. It may be necessary for all family members and close contacts to be treated also.

Inform staff of any medications your child is taking at present. Please bring these medications and devices (e.g. inhalers, babyhaler etc.) with you to the Hospital.

Date and time of admission.

You will receive an admission letter telling you the date a bed is available. Please arrive at the time requested.

If it is not possible for you to bring your child for admission on the date you have been given, please telephone the Admissions Officer on 01-7088524 or 01-6644680 as soon as possible. You will be given an alternative date as soon as it can be arranged.

If your child must come to the Hospital fasting, a time will be indicated on your letter. Otherwise let your child have their normal diet. If your child is to come to Hospital fasting, we strongly recommend that your infant/toddler is given clear fluids (7UP, white lemonade, apple juice or water NOT MILK) before 5.30 am on the day of admission, even if this means waking him/her.

If your child has a temperature or is unwell in the days before surgery please contact the Hospital (01-6644600) and ask to speak to a member of the Consultant's Team. Your child's surgery may need to be rescheduled.

Preparing your child for hospital.

- We recommend that you explain to your child a few days before surgery the reason why she/he is going to Hospital and what will happen
- Explain that it will only be a temporary stay
- Be honest with your child. If something will hurt, tell him/her
- Encourage your child to ask questions and express feelings
- Have your child bring a favourite toy with him/her

What you need to bring with you

- If applicable, please bring your child's current prescription from your G.P. **Please bring medications and devices (e.g. inhalers, babyhaleretc) with you to the hospital**
- Night clothing, dressing gown and slippers
- Toiletries including towel and any special soaps or creams
- Your mobile phone charger
- Books/magazines i.e. something for you to pass the time
- If your child requires a special diet our kitchen staff will try to accommodate you.
- Please do not bring large sums of money, valuables or bulky items with you.

- **How will my child react to surgery?**

This will depend on many factors such as your child's age and experience.

Babies or Infants (up to 1 year):

- Surgery may be more difficult for you than your baby, since he or she will not understand what is happening.
- If your baby becomes upset when separated from you, our experienced and professional nursing and medical staff will calm him or her easily.

Toddlers (1-2 years old):

- Your toddler may have difficulty understanding many things about surgery, such as: why he or she cannot have anything to eat or drink.
- Being separated from you may upset your toddler.

Young Children (2-7 years old):

- Your child may understand some, but not all, of what happens before and during surgery.
- Your child may become angry and may blame you if things happen that he or she does not like.

Safety: For your child's safety please note the following:

- Children are not allowed to leave the ward without the permission of staff and without being accompanied by an adult.
- Please do not enter the Theatre area without permission.
- Any visitors under the age of 16 years of age are not allowed to stay on the ward unless an adult is present.
- Limit visitors to two at any one time.
- Please inform staff when you are leaving your child.
- Please ensure that the cot/bedsides are in place when you are leaving your child.
- Please do not touch/interfere with any ward equipment.
- If your child is fasting, this means they cannot have any food or drink (this includes water).
- Please do not eat in the presence of your child when he/she is fasting.
- Please inform staff if your child's identity band is damaged or removed.
- Please inform staff if you notice anything that may represent a danger to your child or to other children in the ward.
- Please do not bring hot drinks into the ward area.
- In the event of a fire, please follow instructions from staff and the exit signs where appropriate.

Meal times

Breakfast is served at 8am, lunch at 12 mid-day and tea at 5pm. There are drinks and cereal/toast at 8pm.

When your child is fasting for surgery, nursing staff will advise you of when and what your child is allowed to eat or drink.

PARENTS' MEALS

You are welcome to dine in the Hospital Canteen (located in the basement) at specific times during the day.

Monday-Friday:

Breakfast: 08.00am - 09.30am

Evening Tea: 5.30pm - 6.00pm

There are also vending machines in the basement.

It can be difficult, at times to get away from the unit to avail of these facilities especially during the post operation period of care. For this reason, the child's parent/Guardian may wish to bring some snack food for personal use.

The hospital is located within walking distance to many cafe's and delis for lunch.

The Coffee Shop is located in the Outpatients Area. Sandwiches and refreshments are available here.

Monday - Thursday: 08.30am - 4.30pm and **Friday** 08.30am - 3.00pm

ARRANGEMENTS FOR DISCHARGE

Prescriptions, information leaflets and Outpatient Department appointments will be arranged for you on the morning of discharge.

On admission please inform staff if you will need a letter for school on discharge.

You will be discharged at 11.00am approximately. Prior to your admission please arrange who will collect you on discharge.

We hope that you have a positive experience in The Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital. Please let us know your comments compliments or complaints. You can provide feedback on our web site. In the case of complaints please do so in writing to our complaints Officer:

Ms. Sarah Mc Carthy,
Complaints Officer,
Risk, Quality, Health & Safeth Department,
Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital, Adelaide Road,
Dublin 2.

Definitions

Anaesthetic : Medicine that puts you to sleep.

Anaesthesia Induction : How the anaesthetic will be started, either by mask or Intravenously (IV).

Mask induction : Anaesthetic medicine is given in a gas form through a mask held up to your child's face. OR

IV induction : Anaesthetics medicine is given through an IV line.

Analgesics : Medicines to treat pain.

"Emla" or "Ametop" : A medicine (in a cream) that is put on the skin to decrease pain from a needle.

"IV" line (Intravenous line) : A thin (*plastic*) tube placed into a vein through which medicines and fluids are given.

Local Anaesthetic : A medication that is used to numb the nerve that sense pain.

Theatre : The room where surgery occurs.

Recovery room : The room in which your child will wake up and recover after surgery.

"Pre-med" (Premedication) : Medicine that is given before surgery to help calm and relax your child.