

Welcome to the Short Stay Unit

Welcome to the Paediatric Short Stay Unit. The aim of the unit is to continue to assess your child's condition, await results of any investigations done, and to agree a plan of care with you. This plan will include your child being observed for a period of time in the Short Stay Unit, then either being discharged home or admitted to the paediatric ward. We will explain what is happening during your stay; please feel free to ask any questions you may have.

Please ensure one parent/carer stays with your child at all times whilst they are in the unit. While in the Short Stay Unit you will be looked after by a nurse and a play leader. A plan of your care will be handed over to the nurse in charge of the Short Stay Unit by the nurse who has transferred you and your child from the Accident and Emergency Department. The doctors covering the Short Stay Unit also work in other areas of the hospital. Consequently, there may be delays in the Short Stay Unit. We will keep you informed of what is happening.

During your stay

On arrival, the nurse and play leader will introduce themselves to you and make another assessment of your child's condition. They will take your child's temperature, heart rate and respiration rate. The nurse will give your child any necessary medication for pain and/or fever, if it is required. If your child needs to provide a urine sample the nurse will show you how to obtain this.

Your child may need a fluid challenge whilst waiting in the Short Stay Unit. Your nurse will go through this with you, please ask if you do not understand anything.

You and your child will be allocated a bed or cot during your stay with us. Please feel free to also make use of the playroom and colouring table to keep your child occupied while you wait.

If your child is able to eat and drink during their visit, we will be able to provide a snack for them. There is also a parents' room where you can make tea and coffee.

Medical assessment

Your child will be seen once any tests results have come back and then the doctor will review your child and make any decisions about further treatments. If your child requires a referral to another medical team, this may mean some further waiting time. For some

conditions the nurse may be able to make a decision on whether or not to discharge from the Unit. All nurses receive specific training and have been assessed as competent to make such decisions.

Car parking

Car parking in this hospital is 'pay on foot', you collect your ticket on the way into the car park and keep it with you during your stay. Public parking is on levels 0, 1, 2 and 3 of the multi-storey car park with access to the Short Stay Unit via level 2. You will be offered a car parking permit in the Short Stay Unit or if your child is admitted to the ward. This permit with your car parking ticket will have to be validated at the security desk on level 2 on your way out.

Discharge

If your child is able to go home from the Short Stay Unit, you will be given any necessary information prior to discharge.

Comments

Please complete a friends and family questionnaire so we may learn how we can improve our care in the future.

Contact information:

Short Stay Unit: 0118 322 7041

Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust

London Road, Reading RG1 5AN

0118 322 5111 (switchboard)

This document can be made available in other languages and formats upon request.

Jacqueline Evans, Paediatric Emergency Department, May 2014

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