



Queen Victoria Hospital
NHS Foundation Trust

Paediatric Trauma referral to Queen Victoria Hospital

Holtze Road, East Grinstead, West Sussex, RH19 3DZ

Information for parents and patients of MIU



Welcome to Queen Victoria Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (QVH)

Your child has been referred to our specialist plastic, hand or facial surgeons for an assessment. This leaflet will tell you about what will happen during your visit and what to expect. If you have any questions or are unsure about what is happening, please ask a member of staff.

Your appointment

Please report to the **Paediatric Assessment Unit, location 16 (PAU)**. Use the main hospital entrance. Once inside the building, walk straight ahead down the corridor opposite the entrance doors towards a large penguin. The department is on your left hand side. Where possible, please do not bring other children with you. We cannot accept any responsibility for them, and they must not be left unattended whilst on the ward.

Date: _____

Time: _____

NB: If you are arriving **out of hours**, please use the canopied main entrance where there is an entry buzzer system in operation.

Fasting instructions: Please ensure you follow the instructions given by the MIU team and written below:

Last food (including chewing gum/sweets etc.): _____

Last drink (water or diluted squash): _____

If you are unable to attend, please contact us as soon as possible:

Trauma Coordinator

Tel: 01342 414000

What happens when we arrive?

You and your child will be welcomed to Peanut Ward and shown to a bedspace in the bay or into the playroom. You will be asked to complete a form with your child's details. If you have been given any paperwork or x-rays to bring with you please hand them to a nurse or the ward clerk.

You will be seen by a team of doctors who will ask you questions about the injury, your child's general health and previous admissions and operations. Your child's injury will be assessed and a plan of treatment made.

It is sometimes necessary to remove your child's dressing so that the doctors can fully assess the injury. Pain relief medication will be given before we do this, if required. At this time a photo may be taken, which is kept with your child's records. The photo allows the doctors to review the injury without repeatedly disturbing the dressing.

Remember your child may not require surgery

What happens if my child needs surgery?

The surgeon who is likely to perform your child's operation will see you, explain what needs to be done and ask you to sign the consent form. The person signing the consent form **MUST** be a legal guardian for the child, i.e. an adult who has parental responsibility. You will also be able to see the anaesthetist who will talk to you about the anaesthetic and answer any questions.

Most children require a general anaesthetic, i.e. to be asleep to have their operation. If you and your child feel they could tolerate a local anaesthetic, i.e. they would be awake during the operation, this can be discussed with the assessing doctors who will be able to advise on the best option for your child and their specific injury.

The majority of trauma surgery can be performed as a day case, so your child should be able to go home on the same day. Sometimes it is necessary to stay overnight, so it is always advisable to bring a small overnight bag with things for yourself and your child just in case.

This hospital operates on many patients throughout every day. It has an emergency theatre running for trauma patients.

Please be aware that other patients may need to be treated first because their case requires more urgent treatment. This may mean your child's operation is cancelled and rescheduled for the following day. We will tell you as soon as possible if this may happen.

If the operation is postponed and you want to, you may be able to take your child home on overnight leave. This will depend on the type of injury and upon the doctor's agreement.

Eating and drinking

Before you leave MIU they should tell you when your child may last have anything to eat and drink. Your child needs to have an empty tummy so should **NOT** have eaten for at least six hours before their operation. Your child will be allowed to drink water or **very** weak diluted squash only, up to two hours before their operation. **Please do not give your child any fresh fruit juices, fizzy drinks, drinks with milk in, chewing gum, boiled sweets, mints or anything else to eat or drink.** This is for their own safety during the operation. If

they have had anything to eat or drink close to their operation it may be postponed until later when they have been without food or drink for the required period of time.

We understand how difficult it can be for children and their carers to wait a long time for an operation without eating. If we know at the time your child is referred to us that their operation will not take place until the afternoon, we will instruct MIU to tell you to give your child breakfast. It is highly recommended that your child has breakfast if they are allowed, and we advise you to wake them up for it if necessary.

After the operation

Once your child's operation is over, they will wake up in the recovery area. As soon as they are awake, the recovery unit will call the ward and you will be able to go down to them.

The surgeon will have documented in the notes what happened during the operation and also will have given any special post-operation instructions. If the surgeon is happy for your child to go home on the day of the operation, they will have to meet our discharge criteria first. They need to have been awake for a while, have had a drink and be up and about and generally feeling ok.

If your child needs to stay, we have facilities for **one** parent to stay overnight on the ward with them. We have a list of local bed and breakfast and hotel accommodation if required; please ask a member of staff.

How to contact us

Should you have any concerns or would like to talk to a member of staff please contact us:

Peanut Ward

Tel: 01342 414469

How to find us

QVH is situated in West Sussex, just outside East Grinstead town centre, on the A264 (Holtye Road), between East Grinstead and Tunbridge Wells. Please allow plenty of time for your journey and parking. **Postcode: RH19 3DZ**

From Tunbridge Wells area - Travelling on the A264, before reaching East Grinstead town centre, you will drive through two sets of pedestrian traffic lights. The hospital is on your right after the second set of lights.

A22 South – When entering East Grinstead one-way system follow the road signs to A264 Tunbridge Wells, turning left at Moat Road, this leads on to Holtye Road. Go straight ahead at both roundabouts; the hospital entrance is on your left.

A22 North – After reaching the outskirts of East Grinstead, you will come to a roundabout. Take the first exit towards the Town Centre. At the next roundabout turn right into College Lane. At the next roundabout turn right, continue ahead at next mini roundabout and the entrance to the hospital is on your left.

From M25 – Leave at Junction 6 and follow the A22 to East Grinstead. Follow the directions for A22 South.

From M23 – Leave at Junction 10, follow signs to East Grinstead for about 8 miles. On reaching the T-junction by the hotel, turn right on to the A22. Follow the directions given for the A22 South.

Parking

Limited pay and display parking is available in our Visitor car park. Please ensure you bring change for the machine. **Parking is free in the evenings, weekends and bank holidays and also for Disabled Badge Holders.**

Smoking

Please note that the Trust is a totally **smoke-free** environment, which means that smoking is not allowed inside the hospital, in any entrances or doorways or within the grounds.

Further information

You will find more information on our website: **www.qvh.nhs.uk**

Please ask if you
would like this leaflet
in larger print or an
alternative format.

Trauma Coordinators

Issue 2 – Ref: no. 0264

Approved by the Patient Information Group

Print March 2020 – Review March 2023

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