



Cardiac Surgery

Ward 32

Admission date.....

Time.....

Cardiac Surgery date.....



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April 2010

Please ring the following number before you leave home on admission day to check bed status 0117 923 0000 and ask for the bed manager at the children's hospital.

If your child becomes unwell before admission please contact ward 32 for advice on 0117 342 8332 asking to speak to the nurse in charge or a senior registrar.

Debbie Riddiford and Cathy Harrington are the liaison nurses who provide advice, support and information for children and families affected by heart conditions and are contactable on **0117 342 8286**. They are also able to give advice if your child becomes unwell before the procedure.

What to expect on admission

You will usually be admitted the day before the operation. The nurse who admits you will go through patient/family information, check your child's weight, take vital observations and tell you when your child needs to stop eating and drinking. Your nurse will also be able to arrange a visit to the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU). This helps you to familiarise yourselves with the environment prior to your child's transfer following theatre. Please note this may not always be possible during busy periods.

Before the operation you will meet the anaesthetist to discuss your child and the anaesthetic options. The surgeon will come to see you to obtain consent and discuss the planned procedure.

Cancellation

You need to be aware that cancellations although avoided where possible may occur even when you are admitted on the ward or on the day of procedure. Reasons may be due to an emergency taking priority, if a patient overruns expected theatre time, staffing both within intensive care and theatre, no intensive care bed, if your child is unwell or equipment failure.

Operation day

On the day of your child's operation, they may be given a 'premed' to help relax them. When theatres call, parents, nurse and your child go down to the anaesthetic room where we stay until your child is asleep. You will be away from your child for a period of time. Take this time to have something to eat and drink or visit the shops this will help pass the time. You can take the bleep supplied by intensive care unit or ask to be called on your mobile.

What to expect post theatre

Your child will be taken to intensive care directly from theatre once the operation is complete. He/she will be looked after by a doctor and nurse. Once your child is out of theatre you will be bleeped/phoned, you should make your way back to intensive care parent's room where the nurse will collect you when your child is ready. Your child may have the following:

Ventilator - your child may have a tube down their nose/mouth giving ventilatory assistance post surgery, for this your child will be sedated with medication. During your child's recovery the ventilatory support will be weaned. Further oxygen support may be needed via a mask or head box which will be humidified delivering warm, steamy oxygen to help loosen secretions aiding coughing and help clear their lungs.

Nasogastric Tube - A fine tube passed down the nose into the stomach, used to give feeds and medicines if required.

IV access - usually a triple lumen neck line which is secured in place to provide initial cardiac medication, fluid and pain relief.

Arterial line - sited in the arm or leg to take regular blood samples, to check oxygen levels for example and to monitor blood pressure.

Continuous Monitoring - Your child will be observed for oxygen saturation levels, heart rate, respiratory rate, temperature, blood pressure.

Wound - the scar will be down the middle of the chest (sternal), or under the arm (thoracotomy) depending on the type of surgery, there will be a dressing in situ.

Pacing wires - some patients will have blue pacing wires in place after surgery. If the electrical activity of the heart is affected external pacing can be given. If they are not used they are taped to the chest. These will be removed under sedation by a nurse, usually within 24 hours unless rhythm problems detected.

Chest Drains - one or two tubes coming out of the chest, under the scar which drain out any fluid left in the chest cavity or around the heart.

Urinary Catheter - To drain the bladder, observe urinary output.

Once the doctors/surgeon are happy that your child is stable, and does not need to be in intensive care you will be moved back to Ward 32. Although this is a good step and means your child is getting better, this transition can be difficult for parents as your child no longer gets one to one care.

Medications

If your child is on medication please bring them with you. The nurses will administer these during your stay, and your medicines will be locked away in the ward drug cupboard.

Immunisations

If your child is due immunisations we would advise you to postpone them until after the operation unless otherwise informed.

Visitors to Ward 32

We have quiet time between 1pm - 2pm. Otherwise visitors are welcome with no more than four at a time. If any planned visitors are unwell or have experienced symptoms of diarrhoea and vomiting please ask them not to visit the unit.

Visitors in PICU

Two people are allowed at the bed space, no children other than siblings can visit. Intensive care offer a parents room where visitors can wait. No visitors including parents are allowed on the unit during ward rounds which are held between 0815-1000 and 1700-1830. Quiet time is 1300-1500, parents can be present.

Car parking

You need to obtain a permit from reception on your admission day. The porter will guide you to the UBHT car parks, spaces are limited. You will then need to purchase a ticket for £3.00 from the machine which covers one weeks parking. The permit should be attached to the ticket and visible on the dashboard. Where possible it is better to get a lift in from family members or by train/coach. The hospital offers a free shuttle bus service around Bristol- details/ timetable can be found in main reception.

Accommodation

We have one pull down bed by your child's bed space for one parent to stay whilst they are on ward 32; siblings are not permitted to stay. On the first night in PICU the unit will try to provide you with a room, so that you are on site, this is

not always possible. On admission you may ask your nurse to apply for Ronald McDonald accommodation, this is based on St. Michaels Hill but there is a waiting list and this cannot be pre booked. We try our best to provide parents with accommodation, but this can only be dealt with on a day to day basis. Alternatively we have a family information room on level 2 providing lists of B&B's or hotels.

Psychologist

There is a clinical psychologist linked to the ward to help you cope with the stresses of having a recovering post op child. The psychologist is a friendly face to talk to and to help devise coping methods and can also work closely with Michelle our play specialist if your child needs help with coping/behaviour.

Luggage

Generally we say you will need to plan for a stay of 7-10 days. Try to keep luggage to a minimum as all ward areas lack space. For babies we suggest front fastening babygros as nurses/doctors need easy access to check your child regularly. Please bring your own nappies. We have a small clutter box to store a few toys if you want to bring a few of your child's favourite things with you. We have prams on the ward to borrow if needed during your stay.

We have TVs with videos/DVD players, playstations and a playroom filled with toys and books. Each bed space has a phone to receive incoming calls only; nurses will give you the number on admission.

We only supply food for the patients, we have a variety of baby jars/milk but suggest bringing your own bottles if your baby is used to a particular make. We have Milton tanks on the ward and bottle warmers.

We also supply breast pumps for breast feeding mothers to use.

Parents have access to a parent's room you need to bring in food supplies which can be stored clearly labelled in the parents fridge/freezer, there is a microwave, tea making facilities and a cold water dispenser. There is a dining room on Level 5 serving breakfast and lunch, and there are also vending machines with snacks. The children's hospital is located near to town, and there are supermarkets, pubs, takeaways are all within walking distance.

For access to other patient leaflets and information please go to the following address:

www.uhbristol.nhs.uk/patients-visitors-and-carers/patient-information.html

Hospital Switchboard: 0117 923 0000



Minicom: 0117 934 9869



www.uhbristol.nhs.uk



For an Interpreter or Signer please contact the telephone number on your appointment letter.



For this leaflet in Large Print, Braille, Audio, or



Email, please call the Patient Information Service:



0117 342 3728 / 3725