



**University Hospitals
Bristol and Weston**

NHS Foundation Trust

Patient information service
Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
Cleft information

Coming to a SPIN clinic



What is a SPIN clinic?

SPIN stands for speech investigation. You (or your child) have been referred to the SPIN clinic to find out why your (or your child's) palate is not functioning as well as it should for speech. Occasionally, there are other reasons for referral to the SPIN clinic, other than difficulty with speech.

What happens at a SPIN clinic?

The first part of the SPIN appointment is with the speech and language therapist. They will ask you (or your child) to say some words and sentences so they can listen carefully to your speech. They will also ask about any other difficulties which may be associated with the palate. This part of the investigation is usually filmed, so the team has a permanent record of any speech difficulties.

The next part of the SPIN appointment involves going into a special X ray room with the surgeon and a radiographer, who operates the X ray machine. This takes pictures of your (or your child's) palate while talking and allows the surgeon, speech and language therapist (and parents) to see how the palate works when you (or your child) produce sounds.

You (or your child) will be sitting in a comfortable chair and will be able to see the X ray pictures on a screen in the room. The lights are turned down during the X ray and the room can become quite dark. This is to help the team view the image.

If there is any chance the person entering the X ray room is pregnant please call the team before the appointment on **0117 342 1177**.

If more information is needed, the surgeon might use nasendoscopy. A special, extra-slim (fibre optic) camera will

be placed into the nose so the surgeon can see exactly what happens when you (or your child) make particular speech sounds. This helps the cleft team to decide how best to meet your needs.

Please be aware that this procedure is not carried out on very young children as it requires a level of understanding and cooperation. Before the nasendoscopy you/ your child will be offered a local anaesthetic nasal spray which makes the nasendoscopy more comfortable.

After the X ray and or nasendoscopy, the findings of the procedure will be explained and discussed in a separate room.

What do parents do during the X ray?

You may be able to stay in the X ray room while your child is having their X ray if they are very young, but we prefer for parents to be in a separate viewing room where you can watch what is happening on a large monitor. The speech and language therapist assistant will be able to describe what is happening during the investigation.



How long will the appointment take?

The SPIN appointment normally takes about 30 to 45 minutes in total. This includes the appointment with the speech and language therapist, the X ray, and any further investigations or discussions.

Will it hurt?

None of these investigations are painful. You (or your child) will need to keep the head relatively still during the X ray so the team can see a clear picture.

What happens afterwards?

You (or your child), the surgeon and the speech and language therapist will have a meeting immediately after the investigations to discuss the findings. A SPIN might lead to decisions about further surgery or therapy. The team will discuss their findings with you so we can help you decide on the best way forward.

Contact information

If you have any questions or concerns, no matter how small, please feel free to contact us. You can, of course, also talk to other members of the team.

Cleft office: **0117 342 1177**

Cleft service email address: **ubh-tr.swcleftservice@nhs.net**

Information, including leaflets can be found in the UHBW website: <http://www.uhbristol.nhs.uk/> and search for the South West cleft service or scan the QR code.



Notes

As well as providing clinical care, our Trust has an important role in research. This allows us to discover new and improved ways of treating patients.

While under our care, you may be invited to take part in research. To find out more please visit: www.uhbw.nhs.uk

Help us prevent the spread of infection in hospital. Please make sure your hands are clean. Wash and dry them thoroughly/use the gel provided. If you have been unwell in the last 48 hours please consider whether your visit is essential.

Smoking is the primary cause of preventable illness and premature death. For support in stopping smoking contact **NHS Smokefree on 0300 123 1044.**

Drinkline is the national alcohol helpline. If you're worried about your own or someone else's drinking, you can call this free helpline in complete confidence. **Drinkline on 0300 123 1110.**

For access all patient leaflets and information please go to the following address:
<http://foi.avon.nhs.uk/>

Bristol switchboard: 0117 923 0000

Weston switchboard: 01934 636 363

www.uhbw.nhs.uk



For an interpreter or signer please contact the telephone number on your appointment letter.



For this leaflet in large print or PDF format, please email patientleaflets@uhbw.nhs.uk.

