



Welcome to Woodpecker

This information sheet explains about Woodpecker – the post anaesthetic care unit at Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) – and what to expect when your child comes in for surgery or investigations requiring an anaesthetic. Alongside Puffin – our same day admission unit – we are part of the Theatre team at GOSH and work closely with them to ensure theatre lists run efficiently, as well as making sure your child's admission is completed as quickly and smoothly as possible.

Woodpecker is open from 8am to 8pm, Monday to Friday and is located on Level 3 Variety Club Building (VCB). Our telephone number is 020 7405 9200 extension 0461 – out of hours, you will hear a recorded message giving the extensions of our postoperative wards.

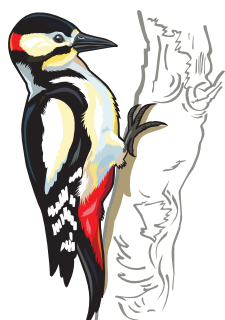
What to expect

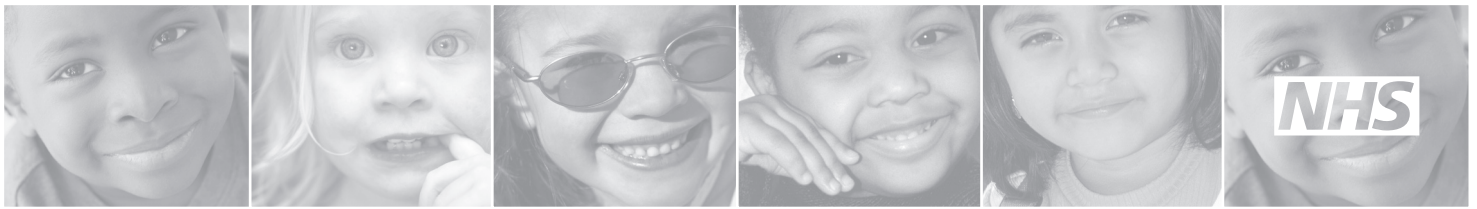
Your child will be admitted to Puffin before their operation or investigation under anaesthetic. While your child is having their operation or investigation, you can wait in the Parents' Sitting Room on Puffin. There are comfortable seats and facilities for making tea and coffee. There is also a luggage store on Puffin where you can leave bags and cases to save carrying them with you. If you would prefer not to wait in the Parents' Sitting Room, you are welcome to go elsewhere in the hospital or local area but please make sure that we have your mobile telephone number.

After their operation or investigation, your child will be taken to the recovery area in the operating theatre to start waking up.

If your child is staying overnight, they will then be transferred to their postoperative ward to recover. The ward nurses will explain what care your child will need and when they are likely to be ready to go home or be transferred to another hospital.

If your child is having a day case procedure, they will be transferred from the recovery area to Woodpecker on a bed on wheels. We will take you to be with your child as they wake up fully. All children are monitored closely as they are waking up – this will involve taking regular observations of their heart rate, temperature and pulse. When they are more fully awake, we will give your child a snack box – this contains a sandwich, drink, yoghurt and a piece of





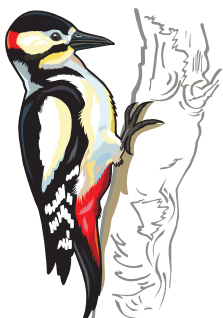
fruit. If your child is on a special diet, please tell us when we ring you the evening before admission so we can order this for you. You can bring in your child's favourite snacks and drinks if you prefer.

Once your child has had something to eat and drink and has not been sick, a member of staff will give your child a check-up and confirm that they are ready to go home. The nurse will arrange for any medicines to be dispensed by our pharmacy technician and give you

information sheets about how to care for your child at home. We may ask you to wait in the discharge lounge on Woodpecker while we arrange medicines and/or transport if booked.

We will not discharge your child until we are confident that they have recovered safely from the anaesthetic. If we are not happy that your child is recovering as planned, we will arrange an overnight bed on another ward at GOSH while they recover fully.

Notes



Compiled by staff on Puffin and Woodpecker in collaboration with the Child and Family Information Group

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