



Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust: Information for Families

Pre-admission clinic

This leaflet explains about the pre-admission clinics held at Great Ormond Street Hospital and what to expect when you and your child attend one.

What is a pre-admission clinic?

This is an outpatient appointment where you will be able to discuss your child's planned operation, test or procedure with the team before coming in to hospital for your admission. Your child will also have various tests and investigations carried out during this appointment. This avoids any delays on the day of the operation, test or procedure.

What is the aim of the appointment?

Preparing for a planned operation, test or procedure before coming in to hospital avoids delays and reduces the risk of cancellation. The results of any tests and investigations are available in plenty of time and can also be re-checked if they are not within the normal range.

The appointment is also useful if your child is apprehensive about any aspect of the hospital stay, as our play specialists can help prepare your child, as can other members of the team. We can also start to make plans for after the operation, for instance, if you need any equipment or supplies, these can be arranged beforehand.

Another benefit of the clinic is that your child will be able to be admitted on the day of the operation, test or procedure, rather than the night before. However, if your child needs special preparation, like bowel preparation, he or she may still need to come in to hospital the day before.

What will the appointment involve?

The doctors, nurses and/or play specialists will meet you and your child to take down his or her medical history and any other information needed before your child is admitted into the hospital. The nurses will explain about any care your child will need before and after the operation. This may include a review by, for instance, a physiotherapist and/or occupational therapist. You may be seen by one of the team carrying out your child's operation, test or procedure and be asked to give permission for the procedure by signing a consent form. If you give your consent at the pre-admission appointment, you will need to confirm that you still agree to the procedure on the day of admission.

One of the team will explain about the types of anaesthesia that are used at the hospital, and also about options for pain relief after the operation, test or procedure. If there are any questions or concerns about your child's anaesthesia, an anaesthetist may come to see your child in the pre-admission clinic. All children are seen by the anaesthetist on the day of the operation.

If your child needs to be seen by another specialist team before the operation, test or procedure, we will arrange this for the day of the pre-admission appointment if possible. Otherwise, we will arrange this for the day your child comes in to hospital.



What tests and investigations may my child need?

Blood tests

Your child may need various blood tests before the operation, test or procedure. However, many children will not need any blood tests. This will be discussed with you as it depends on your child's medical condition and the nature of the surgery that is planned. The particular blood tests used before an operation, test or procedure include:

- **FBC** – full blood count – to check whether your child has a low number of red blood cells (anaemia)
- **U&Es** – urea and electrolytes – to check that your child's kidneys are working properly
- **Clotting** – to check how long it takes for the blood to form a clot.
- **G&S** – group and save – to check your child's blood group in case he or she needs a blood transfusion
- **Cross match** – to ensure that if your child needs a blood transfusion during surgery it is available on the day
- **LFTs** – liver function tests – to check that your child's liver is working properly
- **Sickle cell test** – to check whether your child has sickle cell disease or trait. This only applies when your child's ethnic origin indicates that he or she is more likely to have sickle cell disease or trait.

Ward investigations

Your child will need to have a nose and throat swab. This is routine and checks for certain infections. It may be uncomfortable but will not hurt. Your child may also need to give a urine sample, which will be checked for any signs of infection.

Other investigations

If your child needs any other tests or investigations, like ECHO, ultrasound, X-rays or photographs, we will arrange these for the day of the pre-admission clinic if possible. Otherwise, we will arrange this for the day your child comes in to hospital.

Telephone pre-admission

Some specialities (ENT, general surgery, urology) conduct a telephone pre-assessment before to your child's admission. This involves a short telephone call to gain information about your child's condition. This helps hospital staff know if there are any special requirements, for example, specific milk feeds and to check that your child is currently fit for admission. Not all specialities can offer this service and will depend if other investigations are required before admission.

Notes

Compiled by Dinosaur Ward in collaboration with the Child and Family Information Group

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