What You Need To Know When Your Child Is Having Craniofacial Surgery

Main Hospital Number  01 878 4200
Craniofacial Office 01 878 4883
email; craniofacial@cuh.ie
Pre Operative (Surgery) Assessment Appointment

At this appointment, which is scheduled one week before your child’s surgery, you will meet our Craniofacial Nurse Specialist or a member of the Craniofacial / Plastic Surgery Team.

During this appointment, you will have the opportunity to discuss your child’s surgery and you may also be asked to sign a consent form for your child’s surgery. Some or all of the following investigations will also be carried out:

- Blood tests
- Chest X-ray
- Clinical Photographs

At Home Before Surgery

It is important that you read all the information sent to you from the Admissions Office (01 878 4675). This will include details of your child’s scheduled date of surgery and instructions on what time to arrive at the hospital.
As there are only a limited number of rooms available in the hospital’s Parents Accommodation (01 878 4300), it is advisable to contact them to request a room once your child’s admission has been confirmed. Priority is given to parents of critically ill children and families living outside the greater Dublin area. One parent will be able to sleep by your child’s bedside overnight in the ward. If your child is being admitted on the day of surgery you will be advised of **Fasting Times** for your child. That is the time from which your child may not have anything to eat or drink, this includes water.

**What To Bring To Hospital**

If your child is on medication please bring this with you, along with a copy of their prescription and discuss with your child’s nurse. Bring your child’s own and bottles and soothers as these can be sterilised on the ward. Your child’s formula milk and food will be provided by the hospital. If your child requires a specialised feed, please bring this with you and discuss with your child’s nurse. It is advisable to bring one or two feeds with you to allow for travel and admission time. If your child is breast fed, please discuss your needs with your child’s nurse.

Bring nappies and toiletries for your child. Towels will be provided for your child on their ward. If possible avoid bringing clothing that needs to be pulled over your child’s head after surgery as this may be difficult due to dressings, drains or swelling. Bring button up or zipped clothing instead. For your convenience, bring your child’s buggy or pushchair for their stay and a car seat for going home.
For older children, bring their dressing gown, socks and slippers to wear when they walk down to the Operating Theatre. Bring a favourite blanket, comforter, toys, DVDs or iPod to help pass the time. Please remember you are responsible for all personal belongings.

At Home before Coming to Hospital

Please wash your child’s hair the day before surgery during their bath or shower. Hair is not normally shaved, but if this necessary it will be done during your child’s surgery.
On The Ward Before Surgery

When you arrive, you will meet the nurses caring for your child both before and after surgery. Any outstanding investigations will be carried out at this time. A member of the Anaesthetic Team will assess your child’s suitability for surgery. Please make sure you inform them of all relevant family history regarding anaesthetics.

A member of the Craniofacial / Plastic Surgery Team will ask you to sign a Consent Form for your child’s surgery if this was not already done. Your child’s nurse will inform you if you may accompany your child to the Operating Theatre. Only the ward nurse is allowed to accompany children under 6 months old. You will be advised of the approximate time your child is going to the Operating Theatre.

You will be advised of **Fasting Times** for your child that is the time from which your child may not have anything to eat or drink this includes water.

Please make sure your child is wearing their dressing gown, socks and slippers on the way to the Operating Theatre to keep warm. Young children will be wrapped in a blanket.
While Your Child Is In Surgery

You will be given an approximate length of time your child’s surgery is expected to last. We advise that while your child is in surgery that you take time to have something to eat and get some fresh air outside of the hospital or rest in Parents Accommodation. Please make sure that contact telephone numbers are given to the nurses on the ward before you leave.

On The Ward After Surgery

Your child will be collected from the Recovery Room by their nurse as parents cannot enter this area. We recommend that you wait at your child’s bedside.

Most children go back to the High Dependency Unit on St. Gabriel’s Ward. Occasionally, following craniofacial surgery, children may need to go to the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) for a night. If this is the case, you will be brought to see your child there.

The Consultant Craniofacial Surgeon will speak to you after your child’s surgery.

Some children will need to wear a head bandage which is removed the morning after surgery. If not you will be able to see your child’s wound immediately.
For a period of time when they return to their bed / cot, your child will be connected to a monitor and will have regular observations carried out by their nurse. Your child will have a number of intravenous cannulas which we call “freddie”, for fluids, antibiotics and pain relief medication.

Some children also have a drain which is removed 24-48 hours after surgery. Your child’s nurse will apply a clear gel ointment to their wound regularly. You may be required to do this at home also. Your child’s face and head will become swollen and your child’s eyes may close completely in the days following surgery. This is normal and usually disappears within 48-72 hours.

The Craniofacial Nurse Specialist will visit on the days following your child’s surgery to talk about their progress and ongoing care.

Before You Go Home

Your child’s first hair wash is usually performed on the ward just before they go home. The Craniofacial Nurse Specialist will give you information on caring for your child, woundcare, advice on pain relief medication and details of your child’s follow up appointment with the Craniofacial Team. This appointment is usually within 4-6 weeks after your child’s surgery and will be posted out to you.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Checked</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medications and Prescription</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel Feed</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialised Feed</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bottles/soothers</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nappies &amp; toiletries</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothing</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dressing gown &amp; socks/slippers</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blanket/comforter</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toys/ DVD’s &amp; Player / iPod</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buggy/pushchair/car seat</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wash Hair and have a bath or shower the night before surgery</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Contact Details

If you have any questions when you go home please contact St. Gabriel’s Ward directly on 01 878 4680 / 878 4681

or

Shirley Bracken Craniofacial Nurse Specialist on 01 878 4200 Bleep 711 or 01 892 1782.

or

A member of the Craniofacial/Plastics Team directly through the Hospital Switchboard 01 878 4200

or

Anne McGillivary Cleft & Craniofacial Services Manager on 01 878 4200 Bleep 796 or mobile 087 9888725

Please visit our hospital website for general information www.cuh.ie
Our campus is smoke free from February 13th 2013

Please remember to wash your hands or use hand gel when visiting the Hospital

Children's art work provided by friends of the National Paediatric Craniofacial Centre

Author: Shirley Bracken
Anne Mc Gillivary
Version: 1
Approval Date: January 2014
Review Date: January 2016
Copyright © Temple Street Children's University Hospital

The information contained in this booklet is correct at time of development