Welcome to the Day Surgery Unit (1 of 6)

Reception

One day your doctor may decide that you need an operation. When you have an operation you will need to have an anaesthetic.

An anaesthetic is a medicine which makes you feel sleepy and makes sure that you won’t feel, hear or see anything while you are having your operation.

You can bring some things from home to play with, a toy or something else, while you are waiting. We have films to watch, a play station and some colouring books and pencils you can use.

You can bring your pyjamas too.

Day Surgery Unit
Tel: 01722 336262 ext. 4550
Draw a picture of your doctor
On the day of your operation
At the day surgery unit there is a big room full of beds on wheels, with a special one just for you.

Your Mum and Dad can stay with you while you wait.

The nurse will talk to you and put some anaesthetic cream (“magic cream”) on the back of your hand or on your arm. The anaesthetist and the doctor will come and talk to you about what will happen next.

When it is your turn for your operation, you can have a ride on your trolley or your Mum or Dad can carry you around the corner to the operating theatre.

Most times your Mum or Dad can stay with you until you fall to sleep.

What is an anaesthetic?
With an anaesthetic you go to sleep but it is different to a normal sleep. Here the anaesthetist gives you a special medicine to make you sleepy even when you are not tired.

There are 2 ways to give an anaesthetic.

You can breathe through a mask. The gas is smelly but if you take eight to ten big breaths you will fall asleep quickly and happily.

The other way is to have a small needle in the back of your hand or in your arm— you might feel it going in, but it shouldn’t hurt because of the magic cream.
Draw a picture of your nurse
During the operation
We will keep you warm with blankets whilst you have your operation.

The recovery room
When your operation is finished we take you to the recovery area where a nurse will look after you while you wake up slowly. Then we will bring you back onto the ward. If you are sore the nurse can give you something to make you feel better, you don’t have to have a needle.
Getting ready to go home

When you are feeling better you can have something to eat and drink. We have toast and cereals and water, squash or milkshakes for you.

The nurse will talk to you and your mum and dad about looking after you at home, then you can go home and rest in your own bed.

With special thanks to the League of Friends for their kind support and funding of this booklet, ensuring children and young people receive information that is suitable to their age and stage of development.