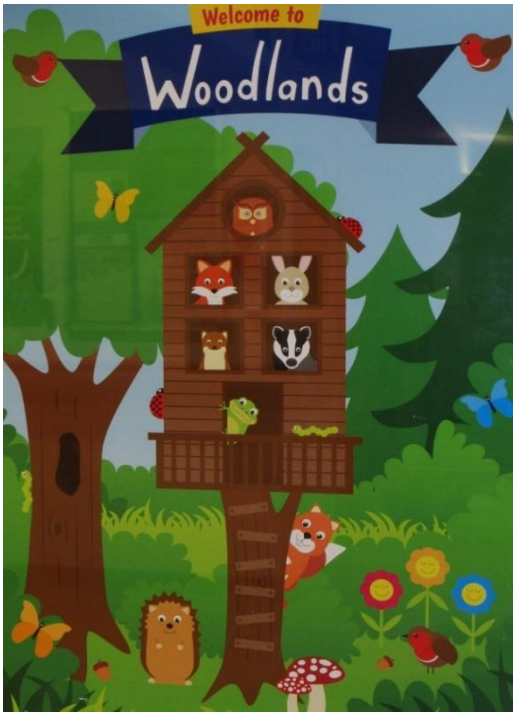
Coming to Hospital

for an operation



Woodlands Ward



You need to come to hospital for an operation.

As you are under sixteen, you will be looked after on Woodlands Ward. This is the inpatient ward for children and young people up to sixteen years old.

The ward is on the first floor of the hospital - F107



You will be asked to come for 07:00 if your operation is in the morning or 12:00 if your operation is scheduled for the afternoon.

The operations in the morning usually start at about 08:30 and in the afternoon at about 13:30.

We try to put you first, if you are on an adult list, but if there are other children on the list, the youngest children usually go first.

Bring mum, dad or your carer with you and something to do whilst you wait. There can be lots of waiting!

Before your operation you are not allowed anything to eat. You can have sips of water to drink.

Depending on your operation and recovery you may be able to go home the same day.

You might have to stay overnight so bring an overnight bag with you just in case.

You will be able to wear your own clothes for your operation so come in comfy clothes with no metal zips or fastenings. You can bring pyjamas if you like.

Before you come, take off any nail varnish, make-up and jewellery.

When you arrive we will show you where to sit and wait. This is usually in the assessment unit on the ward.



You will also have a bed allocated for you, either in one of the bays or a side room.

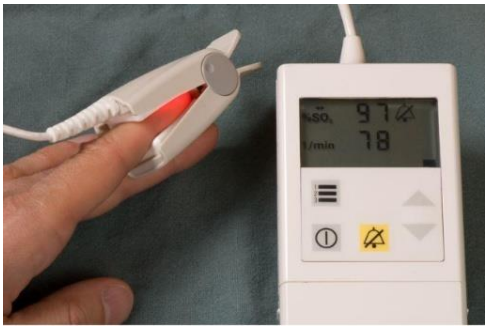




When you arrive, a nurse will take your temperature, measure your heart rate, take your blood pressure and put a name band on you.







The nurse will also put numbing cream on the backs of your hands.



The anaesthetic medicine that makes you go to sleep, goes through a tiny plastic straw (called a cannula) in the back of your hand.



We put numbing cream on the backs of your hands, to numb your skin, so that the cannula doesn't hurt.

The cream takes an hour to work and keeps your skin numb for about 3 - 4 hours.

We put the cream on both hands so that the anaesthetist can choose the best place to put the cannula.

Before your operation your surgeon will come and see you. They will ask your parent or carer to sign a consent form and might draw on you to mark where they are going to operate.

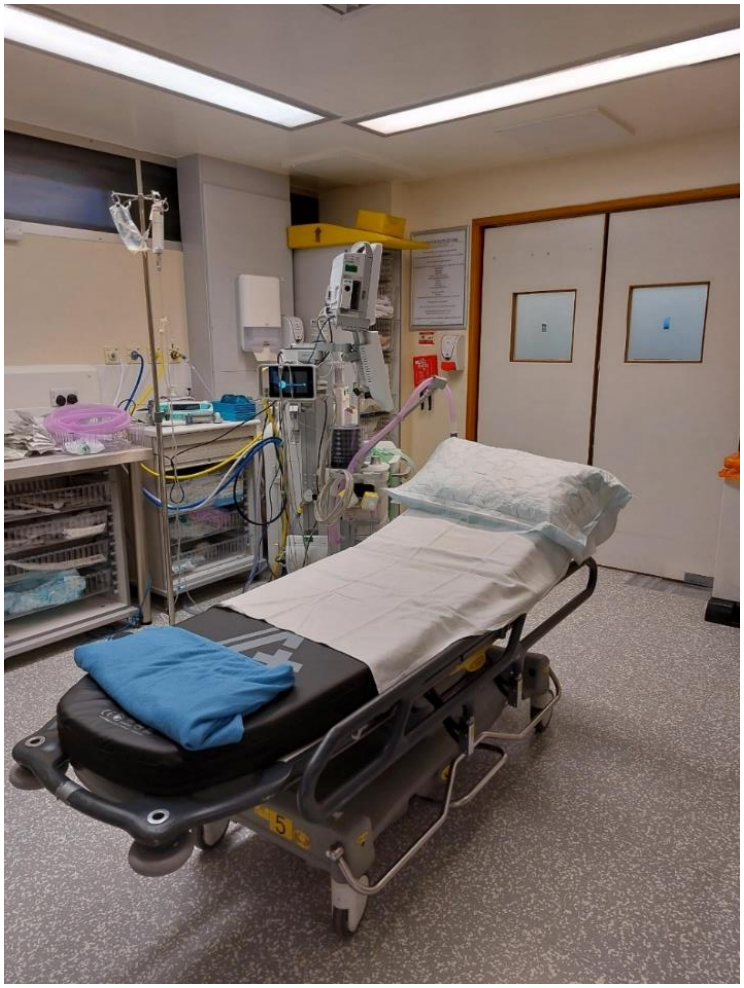
The anaesthetist will also come to the ward to meet you. They will talk to you about having the anaesthetic medicine.



The anaesthetist will look after you whilst you are asleep and make sure you stay asleep during your operation.

When it's your turn, a nurse will take you and your mum, dad or carer round to the anaesthetic room.

This may be downstairs in the Day Surgery Unit or on the first floor in main theatres.



We will check your nameband and ask you to lie on the trolley bed.

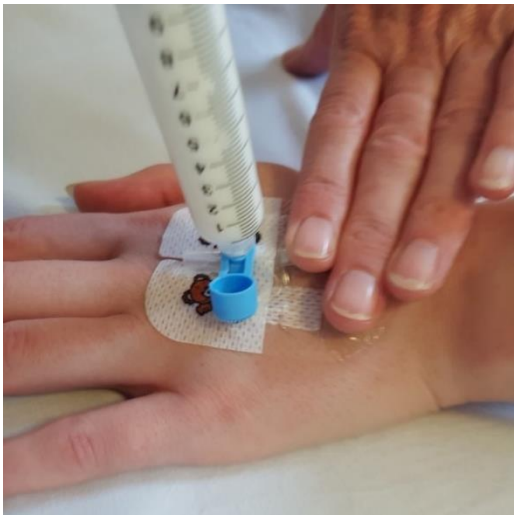
A nurse will put some monitors on you, to measure your heart rate and oxygen levels and will take the numbing cream off your hands.



The anaesthetist will put the cannula in the back of your hand and put the anaesthetic medicine through the cannula.

The medicine sometimes feels a bit cold as it goes up your arm, but you will be asleep in a few seconds.





If you prefer, you can go off to sleep by breathing in anaesthetic gas through a mask.



The gas is a bit smelly and takes a few minutes to work.

Once you are asleep the anaesthetist will put a cannula in the back of your hand and give you more anaesthetic medicine to keep you asleep for your operation.

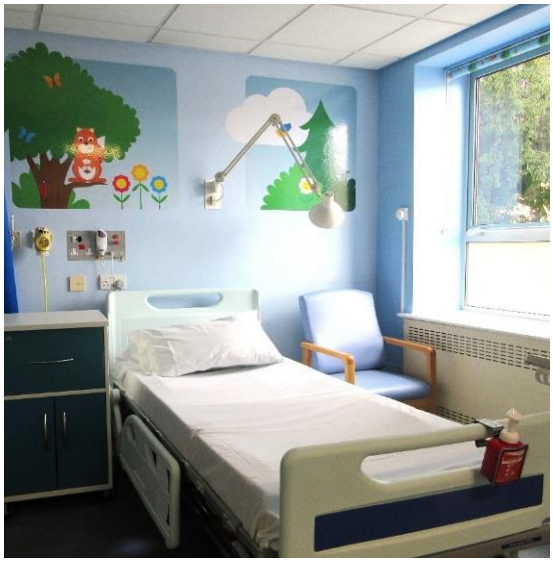
You will wake up in the recovery room. A nurse will be looking after you.



As soon as you are awake the nurse will ring the ward and a nurse and your mum, dad or carer will come and collect you.

We'll take you back to the ward on a trolley bed, as you might still feel a bit sleepy.





When you are ready you can have something to drink and then something to eat.

You can bring food in from home if you want to, but there will be food for you on the lunch or tea trolley.



You will usually need to wait a few hours before we let you go home.

You might feel a bit uncomfortable and sore after your operation. Let the nurses know and they can give you pain relief to help.

If you have had orthopaedic knee, leg or foot surgery, the physios will come and help you get up and about once you have had something to eat and drink.

When the nurses are happy that you are ok, they will take the cannula out of your hand and let you go home.

If you need to stay overnight, your parent or carer can stay with you.