



Your questions answered about changes to children's orthopaedic in-patient care in Oxford

From April 2008, the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre will end its children's in-patient treatment and all children needing orthopaedic surgery will have their operation at the Oxford Children's Hospital.

1. Why is the change necessary when the NOC has a new Children's Unit?

Changes in national NHS policy mean that the NOC will no longer provide in-patient treatment for children. Instead, children requiring surgery will have their operation and in-patient care at the Oxford Children's Hospital on the John Radcliffe Hospital site.

The children's unit at the NOC will continue to provide specialist and routine orthopaedic services to patients under the age of 16 as part of its extensive out-patient and rehabilitation services for children with congenital and developmental musculoskeletal conditions.

The decision follows the introduction of the National Service Framework (NSF) for Children which focuses on the need for children's surgery to be undertaken in dedicated facilities, separate from those used by adult patients, and have 24-hour access to specialists such as paediatric anaesthetists and paediatricians.

The relatively small volume of children's surgery performed at the NOC makes it impracticable to meet this requirement. Therefore, the NOC and Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust have agreed that it is necessary for children under the care of a NOC paediatric consultant to have their surgery and in-patient care at the Oxford Children's Hospital.

This will ensure the safest provision of care in a dedicated children's setting with access to specialist staff and a range of other integrated services.

2. What services move to the Oxford Children's Hospital?

All children's surgery will move to the Oxford Children's Hospital including day cases and patients needing a longer, planned in-patient stay in hospital.

3. When will the change take place?

Services are expected to move across to the Children's Hospital in April 2008.

4. What services stay at the NOC?

Following the transfer of its children's orthopaedic in-patient services, the NOC will continue to provide out-patient and rehabilitation services for children requiring musculoskeletal and disability paediatric services. This includes:

- ❖ Orthopaedic out-patient and pre-operative assessment for children requiring orthopaedic surgery.
- ❖ Gait Laboratory services.
- ❖ Paediatric rheumatology services.
- ❖ Hydrotherapy, physiotherapy and occupational therapy.
- ❖ Orthotics
- ❖ Prosthetics
- ❖ Radiology (X-rays and MRI scans)

The NOC's paediatric facilities will only be used for out-patient and day care and will be closed overnight. As a day care facility it will provide a dedicated space for parents and children attending the hospital for clinics and rehabilitation.

5. Who will tell me if the change affects my child?

If your child is already on a waiting list for surgery then the Oxford Children's Hospital administration department will contact you with details of when and where your child's surgery is to take place. Prior to surgery, your child will still be seen at an out-patient or pre-admission clinic based at the NOC to go through further details and to help your child prepare for the operation.

At the time that your child is placed on a list for surgery, you will be told where your surgery will take place.

Your questions answered

Information on the transfer of surgical in-patient children's services to the Oxford Children's Hospital



6. Can I visit the Oxford Children's Hospital with my child before being admitted for surgery?

If you wish to visit the children's hospital before your child has surgery, you can arrange this directly with nursing staff on the children's wards.

7. Will we still see the same team?

Your child will see the same multi-disciplinary team that cares for him or her at the NOC including surgeons, physiotherapists and occupational therapists. The nurses at the NOC are also moving across to the children's hospital and you will see many familiar faces on the wards.

8. Can I stay overnight at the Oxford Children's Hospital when my child is an in-patient? Where can I find out more about parent accommodation?

Yes, there will be provision for parents to stay overnight at the children's hospital. When your child is admitted the nursing staff will be able to give you more details.

9. Will one single appointment need me to go to both hospitals in one day?

No. All appointments will be based at either the Oxford Children's Hospital or the NOC.

10. My child has a long-term condition, with long-term treatment at the NOC, including some surgery. Will the Consultant s/he sees at the NOC be overseeing his/her care at the Oxford Children's Hospital?

Yes, the same consultant will oversee your child's care at the NOC and at the Oxford Children's Hospital.

11. My child has a long-term condition. Will the nurses s/he knows from the NOC be part of the Oxford Children's Hospital team?

Yes, the nurses from the NOC children's wards are transferring over to work on the wards at the children's hospital.

12. My child has a condition which will be completely dealt with through one sequence of surgery. Will the team s/he saw at the out-patient and pre-operative clinic(s) be members of the team s/he sees for surgery at the Oxford Children's Hospital?

Yes, the healthcare professionals who will see your child at out-patient and the pre-operative clinics are all part of the same team working closely with their colleagues at the Oxford Children's Hospital. Where necessary, staff work across both sites and it is likely you will see members of the team looking after your child at either the NOC or the children's hospital.

13. My child has learning disabilities as well as having orthopaedic problems. Are the nursing staff at the Oxford Children's Hospital trained to care for his/her needs?

Yes. The children's hospital is a dedicated specialist facility where all expertise for paediatric care is concentrated, this includes healthcare professionals who are trained in caring for children with a wide range of complex needs and disabilities.

14. Is there an adolescent unit at the Oxford Children's Hospital? Will my 16-year-old go there, or to the children's ward? What age counts as adolescent?

The children's hospital adolescent ward is called *Melanie's Ward* and takes youngsters up to 16. The hospital staff will always try to accommodate the wishes of teenagers and whether they would prefer to stay on the adolescent ward or children's ward.

15. What is the phone number, address and postcode for the Oxford Children's Hospital ward where my child will be?

The full contact details of the ward where your child will receive their surgery at the children's hospital will be contained in the information pack you will receive prior to your child's admission.

16. Will children admitted from the Accident and Emergency unit with broken bones also be admitted to the ward with orthopaedic patients? Could this mean my child's operation is cancelled at short notice?

Orthopaedic patients will generally be placed together on one ward. However, within that ward there will be other children requiring surgery – this may include children who have been admitted via the Accident and Emergency unit.

The children's hospital has a clear admissions policy to ensure that all patients are admitted in a fair manner and cancellations occur as infrequently as possible.

17. How can I find out more about the Oxford Children's Hospital?

For general information, please visit www.oxfordradcliffe.nhs.uk/news/ for an overview of the Oxford Children's Hospital.

For patients/departments/information on the range of children's services, please visit www.oxfordradcliffe.nhs.uk and under the section **For Patients** see **Our Departments and Services** where you will find information on children's services.

18. How do I get to Oxford Children's Hospital?

Please visit www.oxfordradcliffe.nhs.uk/findus/

- ❖ There are maps of the new West Wing and children's hospital under the section **Find Us and Contact Us** - John Radcliffe Hospital.
- ❖ Information about parking at Oxford Children's Hospital is also available on the **Find Us and Contact Us** section.



Our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) can provide advice and assistance in resolving any problems or concerns that you may have about services or aspects of your care.

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