

Your next appointment will be at:

.....

Appointment date and time:

.....

Fasting/starving instructions

It is essential that fasting/starving instructions are followed.

Fasting/starving includes NOT allowing your child to chew gum or sweets, as this fills your child's stomach with saliva and increases the risk of vomiting.

Your child should be fasted/starved for:

Morning appointments

- Nothing to eat from midnight
- Small drink of water before 7am
- Child can brush their teeth before 7am.

Nothing to eat after midnight

Nothing to drink after 7am

Afternoon appointments

- A light breakfast before 7am
- Small drink of water before 11am
- Child can brush their teeth before 7am.

Nothing to eat after 7am

Nothing to drink after 11am

Please give your child their normal medication **before 7am.**

Out of hours emergencies contact

Cheshire and Merseyside areas

0161 476 9651 - available from 9am to 9.30pm every day, including weekends and Bank Holidays. Please note outside of these hours call NHS 111.

Greater Manchester areas

0333 332 3800 - available between 5pm and 10pm Monday to Friday and between 8am and 10pm each weekend and Bank Holidays. Please note outside of these hours call NHS 111.

Your child may be receiving care from other healthcare services within the NHS. So that we can all work together for your child's benefit, we may need to share information about them.

If you would like to comment/complain about any aspect of our service, please contact the Community Dental Service clinic where the initial assessment was carried out.

For impartial and confidential advice or information on the services provided by Bridgewater or to receive this leaflet in an alternative format call our Patient Services team on 0800 587 0562.

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Community Dental Service

Your child's general anaesthetic appointment



What is a general anaesthetic?

A general anaesthetic is a state of controlled unconsciousness and freedom from pain.

General anaesthetics are given by anaesthetists. They are doctors with specialist training in looking after patients when they are anaesthetised.

Prior to the appointment

Contact the clinic where your child was assessed if you want to discuss the treatment further.

Explain to your child what will happen at the appointment.

Inform the clinic of any changes in your child's health.

Let us know as soon as possible if you are unable to attend.

Important information

An adult with parental responsibility must attend the general anaesthetic appointment with your child.

You must follow the dentists fasting/starving instructions – see overleaf for further information.

The appointment will be postponed if the instructions in this leaflet are not followed.

On the day of the appointment

- Keep your child off school or nursery and directly supervise them so that you are certain your child is starved.
- Your child must not brush their teeth after 7am on the morning of the appointment.
- Give your child their normal medication. If your child uses an inhaler, bring it with you.
- Dress your child in casual clothes and flat shoes; tie long hair back and remove earrings and nail varnish.
- You may bring another adult with you but please do not bring any other children.

In the treatment room

- There will be an anaesthetist, the dentist and nurses.
- Your child will sit on the dental chair and you can hold their hand. If your child is very young they can sit on your lap.
- You can wait with your child until they are asleep. You will then be asked to wait outside the treatment room. Your child will only be asleep for a few minutes.
- The anaesthetist will stay with your child during treatment. They will carefully monitor your child until they are ready to be discharged to the recovery room.

- Your child may breathe the anaesthetic gas via a facemask or a tube held close to their face. Alternatively, your child may have an injection in their hand or arm.
- The dentist at the assessment appointment may be able to tell you which method the anaesthetist will use.

In the recovery room

- Your child will still be monitored in the treatment room. You will be given information about looking after your child's mouth once you get home.
- Your child will be allowed to go home once the dental team are happy that your child has recovered from the anaesthetic and bleeding from their mouth has stopped.

Going home

- We recommend travelling home by car or taxi.

At home

- Have pain relief ready in case your child needs it. Contact your dental surgery if you are at all concerned.
- Plan quiet activities such as reading, drawing or watching television.
- Your child should feel able to go to school the next day. If not, plan another quiet day at home.