

Guidelines for Parents Visiting the Recovery Room

You are welcome to see your child in the Recovery Room as soon as possible after he or she has woken up.

All patients who have had a general anaesthetic spend time in the Recovery Room, but this can vary from a few minutes to several hours depending on the type of operation. Also, some children take longer than others to wake up. Usually only one parent or close relative can go into the Recovery Room.

Invitation to the Recovery Room

If you would like to see your child in the Recovery Room, tell your child's nurse so that she can let the Recovery staff know.

We will try and estimate the time your child will be in theatre and update you if this changes. Please let your child's nurse know where you can be found, leave your mobile number so that you can be readily contacted. If your child is in the Orthopaedic Theatres/Recovery you may be able to wait in the Orthopaedic admissions waiting area from where you will be called through when it is appropriate. Please be patient and wait to be called in as the time will depend on both your child's care and that of other patients.

While your child is in theatre it is very important to remember to have something to eat and drink yourself. Also, as it can be quite warm in Recovery, wear something cool and comfortable.

A ward nurse will escort you to Recovery when possible. You will need to report to the theatre reception on your arrival and they will arrange with the Recovery nurse to take you through.

In the Recovery Room

The Recovery nurse will record your child's pulse and respiration frequently. The nurse will be pleased to answer any questions and explain the purpose of any equipment that is used.

You can best help your child by sitting at the bedside, touching and talking gently to comfort and reassure him or her. If you feel at all uncomfortable or distressed in the Recovery Room, you need to alert the Recovery nurse so that you can be supported as needed, but may need to leave Recovery to allow the nurse to focus on the care of your child.

You will appreciate the Recovery Room is a critical area and at any time you may be asked to leave to ensure care can be delivered to both your child and/or other patients. You will be told the reason as soon as possible.

Sometimes the Unit is so busy that parents cannot be admitted, but you will be told if this is the situation. If there is a delay in you being able to get to Recovery you may be able to see your child sooner if they are brought back to the ward.

Return to the ward

A nurse from your child's ward or the Recovery unit will escort you and your child from the Recovery Room to the ward.

The Trust cannot accept any responsibility for the accuracy of the information given if the leaflet is not used by Royal Devon staff undertaking procedures at the Royal Devon hospitals.

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