

## Children's pre-operative assessment

### Other formats

If you need this information in another format such as audio CD, Braille, large print, high contrast, British Sign Language or translated into another language, please contact the PALS desk on 01271 314090 or at [ndht.pals@nhs.net](mailto:ndht.pals@nhs.net).

### What the service offers

Pre-operative assessment is to make sure that a person is fit for their operation. It's also our opportunity to explain the procedure and gives the child and their family a chance to ask any questions.

We aim to reduce as much anxiety as possible for the whole family. This may involve looking around the ward and becoming familiar with what to expect on the day of the operation. We will always aim to offer an individualised service for all children wherever possible.

The appointment is not just for the child but the whole family where appropriate. We always include parents and carers as much as possible.

During the appointment we will be making an assessment by questions only. It is unlikely that we will perform any routine tests.

Pre-operative assessment usually occurs two weeks before the operation, although this may vary.

The appointments are always on a week day between 9am and 5pm. We are also contactable by telephone, following appointments, for any other questions or concerns.

An operation and a general anaesthetic may pose a risk to a developing foetus. At the pre-operative assessment clinic, the nurse will be asking all females aged 12 and upwards if there is any possibility that they could be pregnant. Pregnancy testing is offered.

### Where service is provided

You can find us in Paediatric Outpatients on level 3 of North Devon District Hospital.

There are parking facilities in the main car park at North Devon District Hospital.

We have disabled parking facilities by the front entrance to North Devon District Hospital but these are time restricted to one hour maximum.

## Facilities available

The hospital has a range of facilities for refreshments both on level 2 and level 0.

We have a children's play area within our department.

## How to be referred

The booked admissions team will arrange the appointment. They will usually try to contact you by phone and book the appointment at a mutually convenient time.

## Who's who

The initial assessment will be carried out by a Registered Children's Nurse. The Play Specialist will also meet you and offer tours of the wards, and facilitate any activity that may reduce the child's anxiety.

### **PALS**

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) ensures that the NHS listens to patients, relatives, carers and friends, answers questions and resolves concerns as quickly as possible. If you have a query or concern call 01271 314090 or email [ndht.pals@nhs.net](mailto:ndht.pals@nhs.net). You can also visit the PALS and Information Centre in person at North Devon District Hospital, Barnstaple.

## Have your say

Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust aims to provide high quality services. However, please tell us when something could be improved. If you have a comment or compliment about a service or treatment, please raise your comments with a member of staff or the PALS team in the first instance.

'Care Opinion' comments forms are on all wards or online at [www.careopinion.org.uk](http://www.careopinion.org.uk).

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