

Movement of children / young people between beds, wards and hospitals during their in-patient stay

Information for patients, parents and carers



Welcome to NHS Lothian Children's Services

Children's Services delivers in-patient and day case care to children at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children (RHSC) in Edinburgh and the Children's Ward at St John's Hospital in Livingston.

We have the interests of all the children in our care as our greatest concern. To ensure that every child has access to the appropriate level of nursing and medical care for the stage of their illness, we need to advise you that, during your child's admission, it may be necessary to move him/her either to another ward at RHSC, or to/from the Children's Ward at St John's, or if you do not live: in Lothian we may transfer your child back to your local hospital. **Any movement of your child will have been discussed and agreed with the consultant responsible for their care.**

We understand that this can be a stressful time for your child and family and we will only move your child if it is absolutely essential. The following are examples of why the decision to move your child may be made:

- If your child has been sent to a short stay ward and it becomes apparent that your child will be staying in hospital longer than 48 hours, we may have to move your child to the appropriate long stay ward once there is a bed available.
- At certain times of the year we have high numbers of children with specific illnesses being admitted. This may require children who are stable to be moved to a ward in another area of the hospital, or to/from the Children's Ward at St. John's. This allows the emergency admissions, and children requiring closer observation, to be cared for in an appropriate area.

Cubicles are assigned on the basis of clinical need. There are two priorities for cubicles – a child who has a condition that makes them particularly vulnerable to infection, or a child who has or may have an infection that poses a risk to other children.

- If your child has been allocated a cubicle for any other reason, he/she may be moved into an open ward area so that we have beds available for children who require isolation.
- Once your child has been treated for their infection, or the type of infection has been identified, and they no longer need to stay in isolation, your child may be moved into an open ward area to allow for the new admissions requiring isolation.

Due to infection control precautions, visiting is restricted to a maximum of two visitors at the bedside, with no visitors under the age of 5 years. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this please speak to the Charge Nurse or the nurse in charge.

Please be assured that the overall safety of all the children in our care is considered at all times. If you have any concerns about any of the above, please discuss these with the Charge Nurse or nurse in charge.

We thank you for your understanding.

Edward Doyle
Associate Medical Director

Ann Fitzpatrick
Associate Nurse Director