

Treatment and Care for Children

Your child's treatment, safety and comfort are of great importance to us and we want you to feel confident about where to take your child if they are ill.

Due to a lack of specialist doctors we are not able to continue to provide inpatient children's beds on both sites from Wednesday 7 September 2016. From this date inpatient children's beds will be located on one site - Worcestershire Royal Hospital.

The children's ward at Alexandra Hospital will be closed for admission and the children's doctors and nurses will move to Worcestershire Royal Hospital.

Most of the children who attend Alexandra Hospital will continue to be seen and treated there. Children who currently access services for things such as blood tests, outpatient appointments and scans at Alexandra Hospital will continue to do so. It is only those who are seriously ill and require an inpatient bed, who will receive their care at Worcestershire Royal Hospital.

The Alexandra Hospital will continue to see and treat children with minor ailments and minor injuries and who do not need an overnight stay.

Children who are seriously ill, attend via ambulance or are referred by their GP will go directly to Worcestershire Royal Hospital. They will be seen and assessed by expert children's teams at Worcestershire Royal Hospital. Many of these will still return home the same day, but for those requiring an overnight stay in hospital, they will be admitted to the dedicated children's ward at Worcestershire Royal.

Parents are encouraged to take their sick child who might need a hospital bed to Worcestershire Royal Hospital. However, should a child be brought to A&E at Alexandra Hospital and need to see a paediatrician they will be taken by ambulance to Worcestershire Royal Hospital. But we advise that all seriously ill children are taken to Worcestershire Royal Hospital.

There will be no change to children under two years of age who require surgery who are transferred to Birmingham Children's Hospital.

Any child who attends Alexandra Hospital in an unresponsive state will be given immediate treatment by staff trained in advanced paediatric life support before they can be transferred by ambulance to the Worcestershire Royal Hospital or Birmingham Children's Hospital.

What is available at Alexandra Hospital for your child?

Although there will be no inpatient children's beds at Alexandra Hospital, the following will be available:

-  Staff on duty trained in Paediatric life support (i.e. Advanced Paediatric Life Support (APLS) trained nurses and doctors) to provide the initial management of a very sick child; plus additional support from the Emergency Department, resident on-call anaesthesia team and critical care outreach.
-  GP Access to immediate telephone/telemedicine support from Consultant Paediatricians located at Worcestershire Royal Hospital.
-  Arrangements to transfer children who need to stay in hospital will be taken by ambulance to the children's ward at Worcestershire Royal Hospital.
-  Hospital at Home (Orchard Service provided by Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust).
-  Outpatients including rapid access clinics.
-  Diagnostics Services including blood tests and radiology.

Call an Ambulance (999) if your child:

-  Is floppy and unresponsive.
-  May have meningitis following a glass test.
-  Stops breathing.
-  Is unconscious or semi-conscious.
-  Cannot be woken, or if woken, doesn't stay awake.
-  Has a weak, high-pitched or continuous cry.
-  Looks pale.
-  Is having trouble breathing, or is breathing abnormally quickly, particularly if their skin and lips start developing a bluish tinge. This means they are not getting enough oxygen.
-  Has a fit (convulsion) for the first time, or one that lasts for more than five minutes. Eyes may roll

back in their head, may be unresponsive, and limbs may twitch. Fits are often caused by a fever (febrile convulsions), but not always.

-  Becomes unwell after swallowing something poisonous or harmful, such as medications meant for adults. Take the bottle / packet to hospital with you.
-  Has a fever and is lethargic.

All of these conditions are likely to need admission to a children's ward so your child must be taken to Worcestershire Royal Hospital or another acute hospital with children's beds if it is closer.

Contact your GP if your child has a condition or injury that is not life threatening.

If your child has a mild illness and you cannot get your child seen by a GP, Alexandra Hospital A&E will provide help for children who have:

-  A minor breathing problem (noisy, rapid or wheezy breathing in a child who is otherwise well).
-  A cut that is bleeding profusely or one that is particularly deep and gaping open. To stop bleeding, apply pressure to the cut with a clean cloth and try to keep the affected part raised.
-  Had a fall and you suspect he may have a broken bone or sprain.

Should you attend Alexandra Hospital and your child needs specialist care including an overnight stay in hospital they will be transferred by an ambulance. The transfer arrangements to inpatient facilities include:

-  West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (WMAS) to convey to Worcestershire Royal Hospital.
-  KIDS retrieval team to convey children who need intensive care to Birmingham Children's Hospital.
-  If your child is well enough to go home, but needs on-going treatment or monitoring, they may be referred to an 'enhanced' Hospital at Home (Orchard) Service provided by Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust.