

## What do we need to know going home?

Before you go home the nurse will inform you about the following:

**Pain management:** You should give pain relief medicine at home for a few days or until your child's pain is gone. Paracetamol or Ibuprofen are recommended. Please ask for the leaflet "Managing your Child's pain at home".

**Wound Care (operation site):** Your child will have a small plaster covering their wound. It will need to be changed if it becomes wet or dirty. If there is an excessive ooze you should get it checked out by GP or hospital. A plaster should cover the wound until your child's 1<sup>st</sup> appointment post surgery.

**Out Patient's Appointment:** is arranged for 1 or 2 weeks after discharge home. You will be given a card with the date, time and name of the doctor to attend.

**Time off school:** You and your child will know best when your child is ready to return to school. Usually he/she is ready to return to school 2 weeks after their surgery or after their appointment.

Contact a Doctor or the hospital if you are worried or if there are any of the following signs:

- Bleeding or oozing from the wound
- Increased pain
- Fever or temperature
- Increased redness/swelling around wound site.
- Vomiting
- Changes in bowel pattern

**Children's Surgical Beech Ward**

Tel: 01 4142160



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## Care of your child following appendicectomy



THE ADELAIDE & MEATH  
HOSPITAL, DUBLIN  
INCORPORATING THE NATIONAL CHILDRENS  
HOSPITAL

### Statement of Values

Respect - Caring -  
Openness - Partnership -  
Teamwork Fairness &  
Equality

Patient Information Leaflet

## What is the appendix?

The appendix is a finger like projection from the large bowel. It is located on the lower right side of the abdomen.

## What is appendicitis?

Appendicitis is swelling of the appendix. This can be caused by an infection or blockage of the appendix.

## What are the common signs of appendicitis?

A child who has appendicitis will present with abdominal pain, fever and vomiting.

## How can appendicitis be treated?

The best treatment for appendicitis is removal of the appendix. The operation may be done through a single incision over the appendix or by laparoscopy ('key hole' camera surgery).

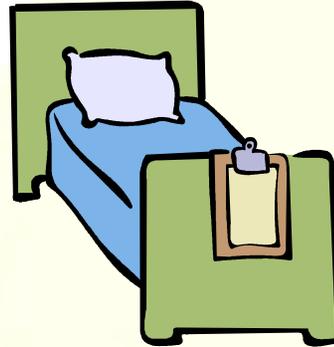
## What happens to my child before the operation?

Your child must not eat or drink anything for up to 6 hours before the time of surgery.

Regular observations of your child's temperature, pain level and general condition will be carried out.

The doctor and nurse will explain the operation to you and your child. Your child may require a drip (IV fluids).

Any other treatment needed before surgery will be explained. Please ask any questions you want.



## What happens after the operation?

Your child's condition will be closely observed frequently.

His/her temperature, blood pressure, pulse and respirations will be recorded.

Their operation site (wound) will be checked for any ooze through the bandage.

His/her comfort will be assessed and pain relief drugs will be given as required.

Your child won't be able to drink or eat until their bowel returns to normal. IV fluids will be continued instead. IV Antibiotics will be given as required.

Sometimes a tube through the nose into the stomach (NG tube) is inserted to allow stomach contents to drain & prevent vomiting. It can be in place for up to 2 days or until your child is allowed to drink.



## When can my child go home?

Usually children go home 2-5 days after their surgery. It may be longer if the appendix was ruptured as your child will require IV antibiotics for longer.

The nurses and doctors will take into consideration you and your child's needs when deciding about discharge home.