

## Orthoptic Department

# Daily Ward Attendance for Patching

### Why does my child need to wear a patch?

You have been asked to get your child to wear a patch on their good eye to improve their vision in their weaker eye. We know that patching can sometimes be very difficult. When a child's vision is very poor in one eye, it is understandable that they might be upset when the patch is on. However, if the eye isn't treated as soon as possible, the vision in the weaker eye may never improve.

### Why is patching in hospital advised?

One session at the hospital is advised when trying to patch at home has become impossible. If more than one session is needed you will be advised. If your child attends the hospital a Play Specialist will help your child accept the patch and offer you advice on how to continue the patching at home.

### If I agree to attend the ward for patching, what is the next step?

If you agree, the Orthoptist will contact the Play Specialist with your details and she will arrange a date that is convenient for you to come in. If it is possible the Play Specialist may come down to the Orthoptic department to meet you when you are being seen by the Orthoptist.

### When will my child come to the hospital as a Ward Attendee?

You and the ward staff will organise a mutually convenient date. For treatment to succeed it is important for parents to attend with their child, so work commitments need to be considered. One parent must stay with your child at all times.

### What time will we need to come to the ward on the day?

On the day you will need to bring your child to the ward at 9.00am / 9.30 am. A mid-day meal will be given to your child. Parents are able to purchase refreshments. You will both be able to go home by 5.00pm, at the latest. The aim would be for 3pm if you have



## Patient Information

to collect other children from school. If the one session is not enough, another session will be arranged for the following day or soon after.

### **Who is going to patch my child's eye?**

You will be encouraged to be involved with your child's treatment as much as possible. A Play specialist will help to get your child to accept the patch. She will also be able to offer you advice about strategies to keep the patch on. We encourage parents to record how long the patch is being worn each day; the Play Specialist will help you with this.

### **What happens if my child needs to have a nap?**

Ask the ward staff and they will sort something out for your child.

### **What do I need to bring to hospital?**

Bring the sort of things that you would normally take for a day out e.g. a favourite toy, nappies etc.

### **What happens after my child is discharged?**

At discharge you will be instructed on the amount of patching to continue at home and you will be given an Orthoptic appointment for a few weeks time.

For a very small number of children the vision in the weak eye does not improve and if this is the case then an appointment will be made with the Orthoptist and Consultant to discuss future management.

If you wish to contact the Orthoptic Department please telephone:

**University Hospital (Coventry) 024 7696 6521**

**Hospital of St Cross (Rugby) 01788 663219**

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format please contact 024 7696 6520 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy

#### **Document History**

Author	Judith Scott
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Published	February 2007
Reviewed	Feb 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, altered Nov 2013, Nov 2015, Jan 2018
Review	Jan 2020
Version	6
Reference No	HIC/LFT/425/07