

Orthoptics

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. This is to improve the 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's understandable that they might be upset when the patch is on. But 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?

We advise a session at the hospital 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. They will 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. They will arrange a convenient date for you to come in.



Patient Information

If possible, the play specialist may come down to the Orthoptic Department to meet you.

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

You and the ward staff will organise a convenient date.

For treatment to succeed, parents need to attend with their children. So work commitments need to be considered. One parent must always stay with your child.

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

On the day, you need to bring your child to the ward at 9am / 9.30am.

A mid-day meal is given to your child. Parents can buy refreshments.

The aim is to finish at 3pm if you need to collect other children from school. You'll both be able to go home by 5pm at the latest.

If one session is not enough, we will arrange another session for the next day or soon after.

Who is going to patch my child's eye?

We encourage you to be as involved with your child's treatment as possible. A play specialist will help to get your child to accept the patch. They will also be able to offer you advice about strategies to keep the patch on.

We encourage you to record how long the patch is 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 usually take for a day out, such as a favourite toy and nappies.

What happens after my child is discharged?

At discharge, you will be instructed on the amount of patching to continue at home. 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. If this is the case, 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 6520

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

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