



A guide to...

Paediatric Ambulatory Care

Patient Information

How to contact us

Paediatric Department
Watford General Hospital
Vicarage Road
Watford
Hertfordshire WD18 0HB

Tel: 01923 217357

If you need this leaflet in another language, large print, Braille or audio version, please call **01923 217 198** or email westherts.pals@nhs.net



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What is Ambulating and Ambulatory Care?

Ambulating means your child is well enough to leave hospital but still needs to be monitored, investigated and/or receive treatment including intravenous (IV) or intramuscular (IM) medication.

The decision to ambulate is made by a senior doctor in agreement with the child/parents. One of the benefits of ambulatory care means that your child can recover in their home with family and may even be able to return to school.

If your child is receiving IV treatment, they go home with an intravenous cannula (small hollow plastic tube) still in place. The nurse looking after your child will give you details on when the next dose of IV/IM treatment is needed and where it will be administered.

My child has an IV cannula, how do I look after it?

Try to keep the cannula and bandages covering it dry and clean.

Be careful when removing your child's clothing as cannulas can inadvertently be dislodged.

Ensure your child is supervised when playing and avoid activities that involve sand/soil. Cannulas may need replacing if they stop working but this will be discussed with you.

If the cannula dislodges or falls out at home, then

1. **Apply pressure to the area with a wad of clean tissue paper and keep applying pressure until the bleeding has completely stopped.**
2. **If bleeding has not stopped then while continuing to apply pressure, raise the limb with the bleed above the body if possible, and take your child to the nearest A&E.**

Where will my child receive her IV/IM treatment?

This will be either in the hospital or in the community (at a community children's centre or at home) by community nursing staff. If your child is receiving their treatment in hospital, this will be done on Starfish ward or the Safari Day unit. Although you will be given a time to attend hospital, there may be a wait for the assessment and/or treatment because the nursing and medical staff also have other clinical work in these areas.

What should I expect during the course of IV/IM treatment?

Your child's clinical progress will be reviewed daily by the hospital team who will look at relevant test results and information from nursing staff administering the treatment. Your child does not need a doctor review for every day they are on treatment but if you have any concerns or would like to speak with a doctor, please inform the nursing staff. If your child is receiving treatment for longer than five days then on day five they will automatically be reviewed by a doctor. When the decision to stop treatment is made by the doctor, the cannula will be removed by a member of the nursing team.

Who can I contact if I am worried about my child?

If your child becomes very unwell then call an ambulance or attend your closest A&E. You can call Starfish ward on **01923 217357** if you have any questions or concerns.

Is there anything else I should look out for?

Allergic reactions are not common but can occur with any medicine at any time. Your child would have received at least one dose of their treatment in hospital before ambulating to ensure they do not develop a severe reaction at the start of treatment.

When at home please seek immediate medical attention if your child develops any of the following symptoms: a rash, facial swelling or difficulty in breathing.

Important contact numbers

Safari Ward

Tel: 01923 436694 - Monday to Friday 7am until 4pm

Starfish Ward nursing station

Tel: 01923 217357 - Out-of-hours, weekends and public holidays

Hospital switch board

Tel: 01923 244366