

Paediatric Intensive Care Unit retrieval service

Information for families

Space is limited in the ambulance so we ask that you bring only one piece of luggage.

For safety reasons, you are not allowed to directly follow our ambulance back to Southampton.

This is a stressful time for you and taking a steady journey to Southampton General Hospital is in the best interests of both yourselves and your child.

This may be an opportunity for you to prepare yourself for a possible stay in Southampton – if this is necessary, we will aim to find accommodation within the hospital for you.

Please ask if you would like a map and directions to Southampton General Hospital.

Paediatric Intensive Care Unit
Level D
Centre Block
Southampton General Hospital
Tremona Road
Southampton
SO16 6YD

Telephone: 023 8079 6972/4949

For a translation of this document, an interpreter or a version in large print, Braille or on audio tape, please telephone 023 8079 4688.

www.suht.nhs.uk



Our PICU retrieval service

Our retrieval service is staffed by an expert team who have undergone specialist training in the transfer of sick children from other hospitals to the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) at Southampton General Hospital.

The retrieval team is made up of a doctor, nurse, technician and ambulance driver.

Children taken to the PICU receive care from a wide range of doctors and nurses, all of whom are specialised in treating seriously ill children.

Although there are risks involved in moving ill children from one hospital to another, we feel that the benefits of the care provided in Southampton outweigh these risks.



Referring to Southampton

We will have received a call from the hospital to which your child has been admitted, telling us about their condition.

A decision was then made for us to either provide expert advice and information about your child's illness or if we should come and assess him or her.

Having examined your child, if we feel that he or she needs specialist treatment and care which is not available at your current hospital, we will take your child back to Southampton's PICU.

Before setting off

On arrival at your child's hospital, we introduce ourselves to you.

We will need to assess your child and take details about his or her illness and what the doctors have done.

We may require more time with your child, possibly carrying out further treatment, before it is safe to move him or her.

Once satisfied, we will discuss your child's condition with you and explain what we have done to prepare him or her for the journey.

Your questions are welcome at any point as it is important you understand what is happening.

Travelling with your child

Our aim is to provide a safe transfer to the PICU for your child.

For insurance reasons, only one parent is allowed to travel in the ambulance with your child.

Sometimes, this will not be possible and we will ask you or the referring hospital to arrange transport.

You may also choose to travel using your own transport, as parking facilities are available at Southampton General Hospital.

If you choose to accompany your child, you must be seated, wearing a seatbelt at all times during the journey.

If your child requires treatment during the journey, the ambulance will stop. Please remain seated with your seatbelt on unless any member of the team instructs you otherwise.

It is imperative that you allow the team to carry out any necessary treatment without interruption.

The team will try to keep you updated on your child's condition throughout the journey, but if urgent treatment is needed they will focus solely on your child and give you the explanations later. In some cases, this may not be until you arrive in the PICU.

The ambulance may travel using lights and sirens through heavy traffic. If you normally suffer from travel sickness, you may find this is made worse during the journey.