

Welcome to the Children's Assessment Unit (CAU)

CAU is used to assess acutely unwell children to try to avoid admission to the children's ward.

CAU is open 24 hours a day seeing children with a wide range of health issues including medical, surgical, ear nose and throat conditions, plastic surgery and orthopaedic problems.

This leaflet will explain about what to expect on arrival to the unit, how your child will be assessed and treated. It will also advise you what to expect after you have been seen by a doctor/nurse practitioner.

On Arrival:

Parents and their child will be greeted at the reception desk and will be allocated a bed space. Parents or a responsible adult will need to stay with your child at all times.

Your child will be assessed by a nurse first and then a medical and/or surgical doctor or nurse practitioner.

The doctors seeing your child are also responsible for looking after children across the Paediatric unit which includes our inpatient ward and our paediatric High Dependency Area, and will need to see the most seriously ill children first. This may result in some delay but we will do our best to avoid this.

Next:

A Doctor will then see you and take a more detailed history and examine your child. A management plan will be made this may include:

- Treatment and discharge home
- Further investigations – discharge home or admission
- Further investigations and referral to another team – Home or admission
- A period of observation – Home or admission

During **ANY** of these plans your child will be regularly reviewed by a CAU nurse and Doctor.

This may take 6-12 hours.

If your child requires a longer period of care than can be offered in CAU we will arrange for him/her to be admitted to Buxton Ward.

Meals and Facilities:

Please ask a member of the nursing staff before giving your child anything to eat or drink. Once registered on CAU if your child is allowed to eat and drink, food and fluids for them will be provided. This includes some baby milk formula (limited selection) and food/drinks for breast-feeding mums.

Meals drinks and snacks can be purchased from the hospital canteen, Costa coffee, WH Smith, The Pod and various vending machines. Please ask a member of staff for directions and opening times.

Car Parking:

The hospital does charge for car parking. Tickets can be validated for a reduced charge if you have been in the department for over three hours or have a disabled parking badge (badge needs to be shown) please ask a member of staff.

Patients who are being admitted:

If the decision has been made to admit your child to the ward one parent/carer is welcome to stay overnight with them (a bed will be provided). Currently, before being transferred to Buxton Ward, your child will have a Covid-19 swab taken by the nursing team and parents/carers are provided with lateral flow tests. This is because all children, young people and their families being transferred from CAU to Buxton Ward are required to have a negative Covid-19 test. If you or your child has tested positive for Covid-19 or are isolating due to covid contact, you will receive the same level of care from the nursing and medical team, you will be placed in a side room instead and will remain on CAU during your time at NNUH.

Transport Home:

Your child may be sent home at any time of the day or night.

Please make arrangements with friends or family to help with your return home when your child is ready. We are unable to provide any form of transport.

Open Access:

On discharge some children are given open access to CAU. What this means and what period of time this is for will be made clear to you on discharge.

Most children will continue to get better after discharge; however, if your child has been given open access then you will be given a contact number to ring if you are worried or concerned about your child.

A doctor or nurse may then be able to give you further advice. If it is felt that your child needs to be reviewed on CAU this will be discussed with you in the telephone call.

We hope that your child's visit to the CAU has been straightforward and welcome any comments or feedback.

Please speak to a member of staff if you have any concerns.

Contact Number Children's Assessment Unit: 01603 289774 (open 24/7)

