

Having a dental general anaesthetic

An Easy Read leaflet

If your teeth are making you
feel unwell, we are here to help



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You can have your dental treatment whilst you are **asleep**
 In the hospital we can help you go to sleep (general anaesthesia)
When you wake up, your dental treatment will be done



This leaflet will tell you what happens when you have a general anaesthetic



On the day of your operation, you will have to stop eating and drinking a few hours before you come into hospital
 If you have a escort / carer they will tell you what time you can eat and drink until



You may feel hungry or thirsty
 It is **very important** that you do not eat or drink anything, including sweets or chewing gum



When you arrive at the hospital you and your escort / carer will go straight to the **Day Case Ward**



You can find more information for people with learning disabilities and their carers on the Trust website at:

www.uclh.nhs.uk

You can get these leaflets in Easy Read:

- Checking your pulse and blood pressure
- Going to A&E
- Going to hospital
- Having a scan
- Having an x-ray
- Getting help
- Talk to us
- Patient Advice Liason Service (PALS)

If you have any questions

Please call us on the following numbers between 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.

Special Care Department:

0203 456 1175 or 0203 456 1264



On the ward, the **nurses** will look after you and check your **pulse** and **blood pressure** to make sure you are feeling ok



If you are **feeling hungry**, the nurse can bring you something to eat or drink, like **tea and toast**



The **dentist** will visit you on the ward to check if you are okay and will **explain** what has been done. They will also tell you or your carer how to look after your mouth and if you need any **medicine**.



Once you are **fully awake** and can drink properly and go to the toilet, the nurse will send you **home** with your escort / carer. The nurse may give you medicine to take at home.



We will give you **written information** about your dental treatment to take to your dentist. We will also give you a number to call if you have any **questions**.



A **nurse** will take you to a bed and will pull the curtains around the bed to make it private for you.



The nurse will then ask you and your escort / carer some questions and will put a **plastic bracelet** on you. This has important information on and you must wear it all the time.



A **doctor called an anaesthetist** will then come and see you on the ward. The doctor will ask you some more questions and will answer any questions you or your escort / carer may have.



We may ask you to **sign a form** to say you want to have the **operation and the anaesthetic**. You may have done this during an earlier visit. We will check this to make sure nothing has changed.



The nurse or doctor may then rub a **special cream** on the back of one of your hands so **you won't feel the needle used to give the anaesthetic drug**. It won't hurt although your hand may feel tingly.



We may give you a **special drink** to help you **relax**
It may make you sleepy



You will then wait on the ward until you are ready to have your operation
It is important that you still don't eat or drink anything



When it is time for your **operation**, you and your escort / carer will go to the **anaesthetic room**
We may ask you to walk or sit in a wheelchair or we may take you there on a trolley



In the anaesthetic room the doctor will **either** give you **special air** to breathe in through a mask which will make you feel sleepy.



Or the doctor will put a **small plastic tube** and syringe in the back of your hand, where the cream was.



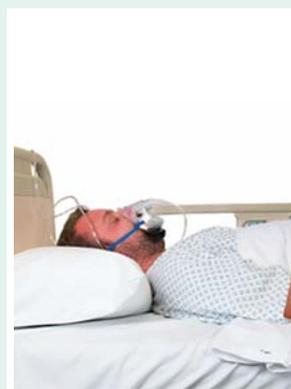
This **won't hurt**, it will make you **feel sleepy**



You can choose whether you prefer to go to sleep with the mask or the small plastic tube
The doctor will ask you which you prefer



You will feel **sleepy** very quickly and will soon be fast asleep
Your escort / carer can stay with you until you are asleep



When you wake up, the operation will be finished
You will **wake up** in a big room with a nurse looking after you
You will stay here until you wake up properly
If you want, your escort / carer will also be waiting for you here



If you feel **sick or frightened**, tell the nurse - they will help you



When you are more awake, a **nurse** will take you back to the ward on a **trolley**
Your escort / carer will come with you too