



# Transferring patients to another cardiac centre



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Embracing change  
Recognising success  
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**Our hospitals.**

  
**Above + Beyond**   
For Patients. For Health. For Bristol.

## **What happens if my child is transferred to another hospital?**

We may talk to you about transferring your child's care to another hospital that offers specialist cardiac care. This leaflet will give you more information about how we hand over care and what will happen when your child is transferred.

There are a number of reasons why we might talk to you about transferring your child's care.

### **Your consultant may wish to obtain specialist advice about treatment not available in Bristol Royal Hospital for Children**

This may happen for particular cardiac treatments such as heart transplants, which are only offered in two children's hospitals in the UK. If your child is transferred to another hospital, we will still support you, your family, and the specialist clinical team now looking after your child. This means we will provide the hospital with information about your child's condition and care. We will also talk to the new team about how we can work together to keep in touch and provide follow-up care when your child returns to Bristol or a local hospital.

### **You may be moving to another area or temporarily working abroad**

Please tell your consultant or specialist nurse as soon as possible if you plan to move to another area, particularly if your child is likely to need any treatments in the near future. It is important to take copies of your letters and discharge summaries, along with details of important investigations and treatments, when you meet healthcare professionals at your new hospital or clinic.

Please tell your child's consultant's secretary of your new address and the nearest district general hospital or cardiac centre to which you would like to be referred. Your consultant will be

able to talk to you about which hospital is most appropriate for your child.

A formal referral letter describing your child's condition, current treatment and any planned treatment will be sent to your new consultant. Copies of important investigations such as cardiac catheterisation, MRIs, and operation notes will also be sent to the new consultant taking over your child's care.

Families moving abroad on secondment, for example in the armed forces, often remain under our care, and we will be as flexible as we possibly can in providing follow-up assessments and treatment where deemed necessary. If you're moving abroad on a more permanent basis, you should consult with our overseas patients manager to confirm eligibility for NHS care.

## **You may wish to be transferred to another cardiac centre because you are unhappy about the care you are receiving**

From time to time, parents become unhappy with the care that their child is receiving for whatever reason. It is important to talk about this with the clinical team looking after your child so they can talk with you about any questions and concerns that you may have. You may wish to request a second opinion, and the clinical team will be more than happy to support you with this. Often these second opinions are as beneficial to the clinician treating your child as it is to you. If you wish to have a second opinion then please ask for our leaflet, which will tell you more about when you might want to do this and how to go about it.

## **Difficulty getting transferred to another cardiac centre**

If for some reason you find it difficult to get a referral to another centre, the LIAISE service may be able to help. You can contact them on **0117 342 8065**.

Please note that if for any reason you would value a second opinion concerning your diagnosis or treatment, you are entirely within your rights to request this.

The first step would usually be to discuss this with the doctor or other lead clinician who is responsible for your care.

Smoking is the primary cause of preventable illness and premature death. For support in stopping smoking contact **Smokefree Bristol** on **0117 922 2255**.

As well as providing clinical care, our Trust has an important role in research. This allows us to discover new and improved ways of treating patients.

While your child is under our care, you may be approached about them taking part in research. To find out more please visit: **[www.uhbristol.nhs.uk/research-innovation](http://www.uhbristol.nhs.uk/research-innovation)** or call the research and innovation team on **0117 342 0233**.

For access to other patient leaflets and information please go to the following address:

**[www.uhbristol.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/information-for-patients/](http://www.uhbristol.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/information-for-patients/)**

**Hospital switchboard: 0117 923 0000**



**Minicom: 0117 934 9869**



**[www.uhbristol.nhs.uk](http://www.uhbristol.nhs.uk)**



For an interpreter or signer please contact the telephone number on your appointment letter.



For this leaflet in large print, audio or PDF format, please email [patientleaflets@uhbristol.nhs.uk](mailto:patientleaflets@uhbristol.nhs.uk).

