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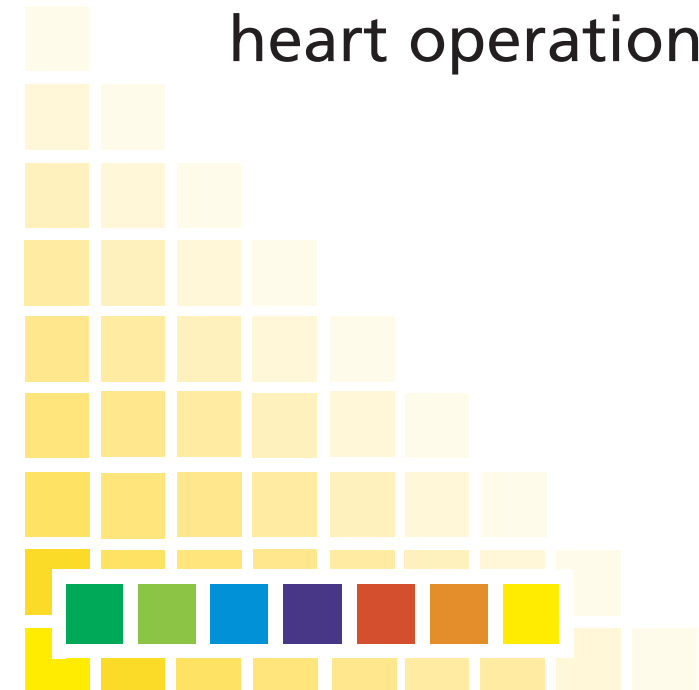
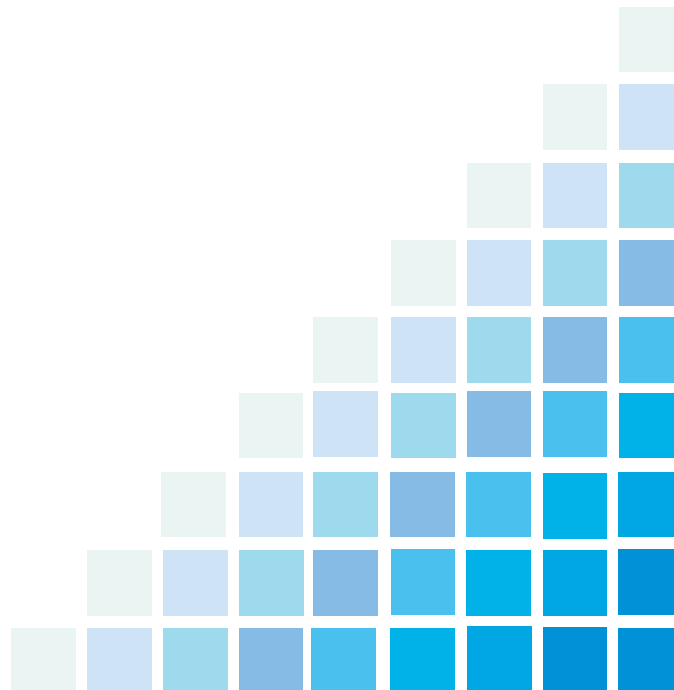
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Checking your child's health before coming into hospital for a heart operation



To help you and your child prepare for coming into hospital for a heart operation we have put together a brief checklist about certain aspects of your child's health.

By checking these and letting us know of any problems in advance you also help us to avoid any unnecessary delays to your child's surgery.

Dental health

If your child is more than one year old, we advise you to take him or her for a check-up with your dentist before coming into hospital. Poor dental health can provide a site for infections, which can lead to complications at the time of surgery.

Infections

Please contact us by telephone if your child has any of the following symptoms of infection before the operation day:

- A cold
- Signs of the flu or a high temperature
- Watery bowel movement
- Has been in contact with anyone with a contagious disease such as chicken pox or measles.

Medicines

If your child takes any of the following anticoagulation medications (used to slow the blood clotting process) please follow the guidelines about when they should be stopped:

- **Warfarin** should be stopped three days before surgery. However, if your child has a mechanical heart valve please telephone us to discuss this.
- **Aspirin** should be stopped seven days before surgery.
- **Clopidogrel** should be stopped seven days before surgery.

Your child should continue to take all other medications as usual unless you have been told otherwise.

Useful contacts

If you would like further advice about any of these matters please telephone:

- The **paediatric co-ordinators** on 020 7352 8121 and ask for bleep 1234 (Monday - Friday, 8.30 a.m. - 4.30 p.m.)

or

- The **cardiac nurse specialists** on 020 7352 8121 and ask for bleep 1276 (Monday to Friday, 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.) You can also reach the cardiac nurse specialists directly by calling: 020 7349 7727.

Outside these hours please call 020 7352 8121 and ask for bleep 1270 to speak to the nurse in charge on Rose Ward.