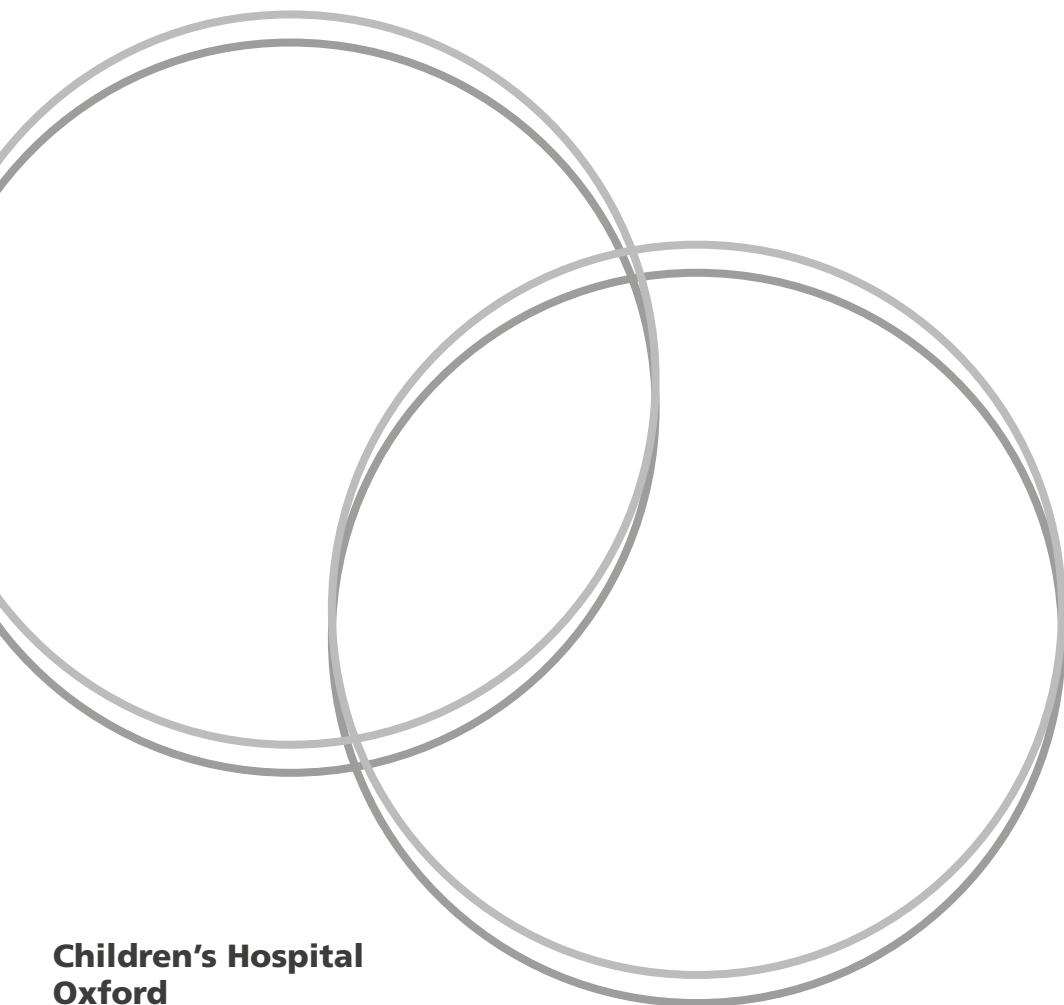




Oxford University Hospitals  
NHS Foundation Trust

# Patient Controlled Analgesia (PCA)

**Information for children  
and young people**



**Children's Hospital  
Oxford**

Your anaesthetist has decided to give you Patient Controlled Analgesia (PCA) after your operation, to help with any pain you might have.

## **What is PCA?**

PCA is a way of giving you pain relieving medicine using an electronic pump. The pump is connected to a thin tube called a cannula (drip) in your arm or hand.

You can push the button attached to the PCA pump to give yourself an extra dose of pain relieving medicine, if you need it.

If you are in pain press the button. It takes about 5 minutes for the pain relieving medicine to work. If you are still in pain after 5 minutes you can press the button again. You can carry on pressing the button until your pain feels better.

**You are the only person who knows when you have pain or feel sore, so only you are allowed to press the PCA button.**

Your nurse may also remind you to press the button before activities which may cause pain, such as moving or coughing.

The PCA is programmed to give you a measured amount of pain relieving medicine.

Don't worry. You cannot give yourself too much pain relieving medicine by pressing the button too often.

Please speak to your anaesthetist or nurse if you have any questions.

**Also available, information about Patient Controlled Analgesia for parents and carers.**

## Further information

If you would like an interpreter, please speak to the department where you are being seen.

Please also tell them if you would like this information in another format, such as:

- Easy Read
- large print
- braille
- audio
- electronic
- another language.

We have tried to make the information in this leaflet meet your needs. If it does not meet your individual needs or situation, please speak to your healthcare team. They are happy to help.

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[www.ouh.nhs.uk/information](http://www.ouh.nhs.uk/information)



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