

Children at the Emergency Department

This brochure provides information about the treatment of children at the Emergency Department. Keep in mind that your personal situation may differ from what is described here.

Your child is being treated at the Emergency Department (A&E) of the Ardz Medical Center. Various disciplines work in this department, including nurses, emergency physicians, general practitioners, general practitioners in training, physician assistants and medical interns. The A&E also works closely with other departments within the hospital, such as the Laboratory and the X-ray Department.

It is better for your child if you are present at the A&E during their stay. The care we offer is always in consultation with you. All care you can and want to perform yourself promotes the comfort of your child. Naturally, everything must be in consultation with the nurse.

Explaining the A&E visit to your child

Children process hospital experiences easier if they know what to expect in advance. Insofar as this is possible at the Emergency Department, it helps to explain what is going to happen. Be honest and tell your child that they might experience some pain and that it is okay to be upset.

If your child needs to go to hospital in an emergency, it is unlikely that you have the opportunity to prepare them. It is, therefore, important that you explain, where possible during and after the visit to the A&E, what is or was going on and why certain examinations were done.

An empty stomach

Because we do not know in advance what treatment your child will receive at the Emergency Department, we ask you to refrain from giving your child anything more to eat and drink. If your child wants to eat or drink something, please consult the treating nurse or doctor.

Physical examination

A full physical examination is often performed on your child.

Accompanying your child for their general anaesthetic

In the event of a surgery, one of the parents can accompany the child for their general anaesthetic. You are required to put on protective clothing and a hat prior to entering the operation room. An employee from the operating room will guide you and your child through. Your child will be given a general anaesthetic via a mask or an injection. Your child might make slight jerky movements while under anaesthesia and their eyes may not immediately close completely. This is normal. Once your child is asleep, a nurse will ask you to leave the operating room. Your child will be in a deep sleep and will not notice you leaving.

In emergencies, the decision can be made to not let the parent into the preparation room. You will be informed of this in advance.

The well-being and safety of your child

The government imposes an obligation on all hospitals in the Netherlands to pay extra attention to the well-being and safety of the child. Ardz takes this very seriously. All employees at our hospital are trained to pay attention to whether the well-being and safety are guaranteed.

We fill in a screening form (SPUTOVAMO-R2 checklist) for all children up to the age of 18 who arrive at the emergency room. The form includes filling in whether the child is injured, where the injury is located and what caused it. In most cases, filling in the form is merely a formality.

Help at home

During the completion of the screening form or during the physical examination, suspicion may arise that there are problems in the family situation and that help is needed. If the child's safety is potentially at risk, the doctor will openly and honestly discuss their concerns with the parents or carers. Veilig Thuis (Safe home) is also notified. Veilig Thuis determines whether help in the home situation is desired and needed. If so, they will organise it.

The Medical Treatment Agreement Act

The Medical Treatment Agreement Act (WGBO) contains specific rules for giving information to and obtaining permission from minors and/or their representative(s). This depends on the age of the child.

Children up to 12 years

For an examination or treatment of a child under the age of 12, permission from the parent(s) or guardian(s) is required. The child itself does not have to grant permission but is entitled to information that is given in understandable words applicable to the level of development.

Children 12-15 years

Both the parent(s) or guardian(s) and the child must give consent for the medical treatment of children between 12 and 15 years of age.

Youth 16 years and older

From the age of 16, young people can enter into a treatment agreement with a care provider themselves. This means that information about examinations and treatment is discussed with the teenager first. The child must give permission for examinations and treatment.

Exceptions

For exceptions to these rules and more extensive information, please visit the [WGBO website](#) or [Kindenziekenhuis.nl](#).

Access to medical records

If you want to see or obtain a copy of your medical records, you can arrange this directly with your treating doctor. The doctor can explain the medical data if necessary. Others may only view your records with your explicit permission. Parents or carers of children under

the age of 12 may view their child's information. For children from 12 to 16 years old, both the child and the parents or carers have the right to view the medical records.