

## Patient information

# Botulinum anti-toxin (Botox) injections on the children's ward

Your child has been consented to have botulinum anti-toxin, also known as Botox.

This will take place on F1 Rainbow Ward with sedation.

Botulinum is a naturally produced toxin, it can be used in small amounts to aid children with cerebral palsy and other neurological conditions causes of muscle stiffness and pain.

### How it works

When injected into muscle it has a controlled effect. It blocks messages between nerve endings and muscles around the injection site causing weakness in this area.

Injections usually take effect within a few days and reach their peak at around 4 to 6 weeks, although this can vary in each patient.

The effects last for approximately 4 to 6 months however the benefits may last for longer and in some case for up to a year.

### Side effects

The most common side effects reported are.

- Soreness at the injection site
- The injections cause weakness in the injected area sometimes nearby muscles can also be affected. This weakness is temporary but may make balance a bit more difficult.
- Mild 'flu' like symptoms which may be treated with paracetamol
- Very occasionally temporary issues with bladder control or swallowing are seen.

## Injection day

Your child will need to attend the children's ward: your appointment letter will confirm the time.

Please be aware your child will need to be starved before their treatment and this is explained in your leaflet about **sedation**.

When you arrive on the ward your child will be met by a member of staff who will show them to their bed. Magic cream will be applied to the planned injection sites to numb the skin.

Observations will be carried out to check that your child is well enough to have their procedure.

The injections are carried out in a treatment room on the ward. All injections are carried out under ultrasound guidance. Parents are welcome to stay with their child during the procedure. (Your child will be observed with regular monitoring before, during and after the procedure.)

After the injections, once your child has had something to eat and drink you will be able to take them home, usually within a few hours.

Your child may be sleepier than usual over the next day. This is due to the sedation given, they should soon fully recover.

Your child may experience some pain or discomfort around the injection site which should only last for a few days, paracetamol is usually enough to help with this.

Please read all the information leaflets given to you including **Sedation** and **COVID testing**.

*If you would like any information regarding access to the West Suffolk Hospital and its facilities please visit the website for AccessAble (formerly DisabledGo)*

*<https://www.accessable.co.uk>*



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