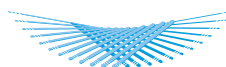




# ***Care of the Child with a Cleft Lip***

***Information to prepare for surgery***



COUNTIES  
MANUKAU  
HEALTH

## Surgery

Surgery for cleft lip may involve an operation to the lip, nose and primary palate (hard portion of the roof of the mouth behind the teeth). Our aim is to repair the cleft lip at 4-5 months of age although timing of the operation may differ for each child.



## Before Surgery

A preadmission clinic appointment may be arranged prior to surgery. This involves a house surgeon checking your child's general health. Your surgeon will not be present at this appointment but the nurse will be able to answer any questions you may have.

## Admission

You will be notified by a Theatre Coordinator of the time and date of admission for surgery. Admission to Kidz First Surgical Unit is usually on the morning of surgery. If you live out of Auckland, it can be arranged that you are admitted the day before.

It is important for a child's safety that they do not have anything to eat or drink (nil by mouth) including water before surgery. The nurses will let you know what time your child will have their last feed/drink before their surgery. The time of this will depend on when your child will go to theatre that day.

The time of surgery will depend on the age of your child and the other children on the surgical list for that day. Usually the youngest child on the surgery list will go first.

## After Surgery

Your child will be transferred to Kidz First Surgical ward. Regular pain relief medication will be given to relieve any discomfort. Once your child is comfortable, eating and drinking well you should be able to go home. Your stay in hospital will be about 1-2 days.

One parent or caregiver may stay in hospital with your child. Please see the ward clerk in Kidz First for information about free car parking for the duration of your child's stay.

Any questions regarding your child's stay in hospital please contact the Cleft CNS.



## Arm Splints

Arm splints must be worn for 3 weeks after surgery and are provided for your child on admission to hospital. These prevent your child from putting objects such as fingers or toys into their mouth and injuring the surgical site. They are made with velcro to hold them in place and can be easily taken off to wash or dress your child.

## Nasal Stent

*(Depending on the Surgeons preference your child may or may not have a nasal stent)*

The nasal stent helps keep the shape of the nostrils. The stent can become blocked up with food and mucous. Flushing the stent with 1-2 drops of saline solution regularly can help reduce the blockage. If the stent falls out please contact the Cleft Clinical Nurse Specialist.

## Eating and drinking after surgery

Although some children may be able to be fed with their cleft palate bottle. You will be advised on the day.

Due to the long lasting local anaesthetic used at the time of surgery your child may be given fluid to drink via syringe for the first 24 hours. This is dependent on surgeon preference.

The next day you may continue to feed your child using your usual specialised cleft bottle/teat that you have discussed with your Speech Language Therapist. If your child has a cleft lip only and you have been able to breast feed prior to surgery, you will be able to continue breast feeding after surgery.

If your child is having solids this needs to be very soft and smooth with no lumps and fed to your child using a soft spoon. This is to prevent any damage to the surgery site.

It is common for children to prefer sloppy solids after surgery. Adding their regular milk to the solids makes it sloppy and is a good way of giving extra fluid to your child after surgery.

Do not give your child crackers, toast or any other hard food for 3 weeks to prevent damage to the surgical site.

It is recommended to give your child a drink of water after meals as way of rinsing their mouth.



## Follow Up Appointments

A post-operative appointment will be made approximately 6 weeks after surgery to check the surgical site has healed.

## On-going Treatment

Your child will be regularly seen in the Cleft clinic and assessed by our team. Ongoing Cleft clinic appointments are 1-2 yearly. It is important to attend all appointments as each child is unique and it is not possible to predict exactly what care may be necessary in the future. Along the way as your child grows cleft related problems may arise that need reviewing by your Cleft team.

If you have any concerns or wish to see a member of your child's Cleft team earlier please contact the Cleft Clinical Nurse Specialist.

## For Parents When to see your GP

- If your child is in pain and pain relief does not seem to help
- If there are signs of infections such as redness, swelling, oozing or odour from the operation sites
- Your child is not eating or drinking
- Fever
- Bleeding from the operation sites

**If you have any concerns please contact the Cleft Clinical Nurse Specialist**

### Contact Details:

Cleft Clinical Nurse Specialist  
09 276 0044 ext 58922  
021 574 434



# Map of Middlemore Hospital

## Middlemore Guide

 Rainbow Corridor

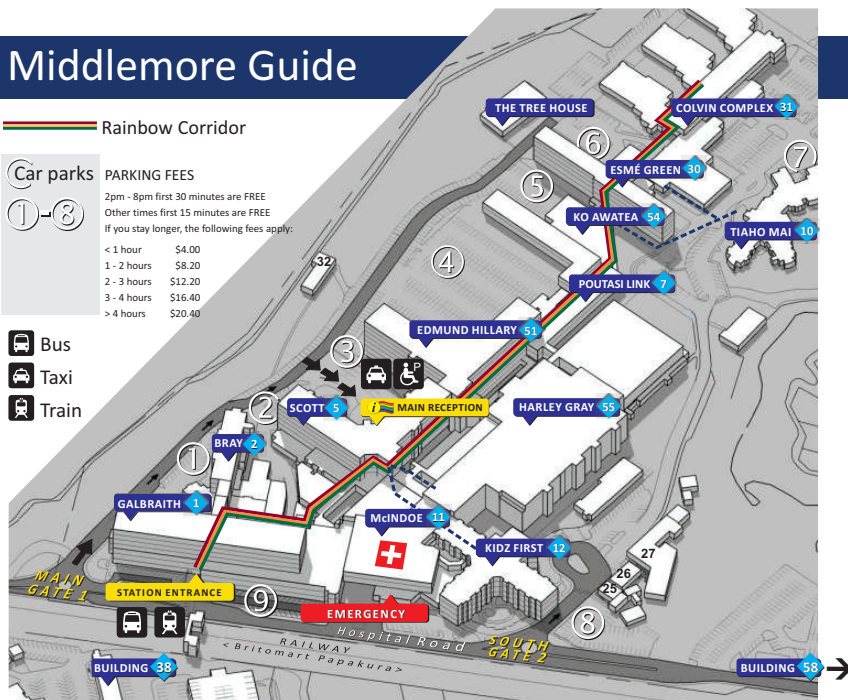
### Car parks



### PARKING FEES

2pm - 8pm first 30 minutes are FREE  
Other times first 15 minutes are FREE  
If you stay longer, the following fees apply:

< 1 hour	\$4.00
1 - 2 hours	\$8.20
2 - 3 hours	\$12.20
3 - 4 hours	\$16.40
> 4 hours	\$20.40



### Main Reception

   Cashier • Spiritual Centre (Main Gate 1)














### Emergency

Emergency  all ages (on Hospital Road)

### Kidz First

Children's Hospital (South Gate 2)

### BUILDING

-  **Galbraith**
-  **Bray**
-  **Scott**
-  **McIndoe** via Scott
-  **Harley Gray**
-  **Edmund Hillary**
-  **Poutasi Link**
-  **Ko Awatea**
-  **Esmé Green**
-  **Colvin Complex**
-  **Tiaho Mai**
-  **Building 38**
-  **Building 58**

### SERVICES

Radiology\* • Birthing • Maternity • GynaeCare • Early Pregnancy • Wound Care • Manchester Suite  
Bereavement Care • Middlemore Foundation  
Wards 1 - 11 • Coronary Care • Cardiac Catheter Laboratory • Cardiac Step-down • Oral Health  
National Burn Centre • Middlemore Central • Staff Centre  
Critical Care • Neonatal Care • Operating Theatres • Medical Assessment  
Wards 31 - 35 • Koropiko • Haematology • Gastroenterology • Cardiac Investigation • Discharge Lounge  
Eligibility • Car parking  
Ko Awatea Centre  
Middlemore Clinical Trials • University of Auckland • M.I.T. • A.U.T.  
Wards 22/Tui, 23, 24 • Rehabilitation  
Huia • Kuaka  
Whitiora • Home Health Care • Renal Self Care  
MRI + CT scans\*

\* Radiology services are in two buildings.  
Please check your destination.

Questions

Reminder Lists

Questions

Reminder Lists

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# Counties Manukau Health Values

*We aspire to live and breathe our values every day as the foundation of our strategic goal to achieve health equity for our community:*



**VALUING EVERYONE** – Make everyone feel welcome and valued

**KIND** – Care for other people's wellbeing

**TOGETHER** – Include everyone as part of the team

**EXCELLENT** – Safe, professional, always improving

## *The Code of Rights*

This means that you should have

- |                             |                                      |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Respect and privacy      | 6. Information                       |
| 2. Fair treatment           | 7. Your choice and decisions         |
| 3. Dignity and independence | 8. Support                           |
| 4. Proper standards         | 9. Rights during teaching & research |
| 5. Effective communication  | 10. Your complaints taken seriously  |



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Artwork supplied by Hilary Meehan at Hilary's Studio



[countiesmanukau.health.nz](http://countiesmanukau.health.nz)

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