

What will happen when I am ready to go home?

At discharge an information leaflet will be given with advice needed to care for your child at home.

A letter will be sent to your GP to inform them that your child was in the POD.

It will tell them what your child had done and if your child needs any follow up review with the GP.

If necessary your child will be given a follow up appointment in the hospital.

Once discharged home if your child becomes more unwell you can get advice from your GP or return to the ED for treatment.

What happens if my child is not ready to go home after time spent in the POD?

If after spending four to six hours in the POD and your child is not ready to go home after the doctor and nurses assess you they may decide you need to be admitted to the hospital for further treatment. The nurse will book a bed on the inpatient ward and you will be moved up to it as soon as it is ready and your child will continue their care up on the ward. Your doctor and nurse will discuss this with you before a decision is made to admit your child to the ward.

If you have any questions please ask your nurse or doctor.

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B Collins/E Daly

PATIENT/PARENT INFORMATION LEAFLET



POD information leaflet for parents.



THE ADELAIDE & MEATH
HOSPITAL, DUBLIN
INCORPORATING THE NATIONAL
CHILDRENS HOSPITAL

Statement of Values

**Respect - Caring -
Openness -
Partnership -
Teamwork Fairness &
Equality**

What is the POD?

The POD (paediatric observation department) or SSOU (short stay observation unit) is a unit of eight beds situated off the children's ED. The unit will open from 10am till 10 pm.

Its purpose is to provide safe observation and treatment to those children who are likely to need only a short stay in hospital before they are able to go home.

The POD aims to minimise time spent in hospital and reduce the number of children admitted to the ward by providing rapid assessment, observation and appropriate treatment by doctors and nurses with paediatric expertise.



How the POD works.

Your child is first assessed in the ED and if it is decided that your child is likely to need some treatment and longer observation, but not necessary an admission to the inpatient ward, he/she will be transferred to the POD.

The POD will only look after children who present with conditions that will only need about four to six hours of care. Examples of these conditions include vomiting bug, Croup, Asthma and chest infections. Your child's nurse and doctor will discuss with you the plan of care before you are transferred.

Your child may have some tests and treatment in the ED and further care will be carried out in the POD depending on what is wrong with your child and what your child needs to help them get better and ready for home.

You will need to stay with your child during their time in the POD. The nurse and doctor will talk to you about your child's progress during your stay and they will keep you informed about when we expect for you to be able to take your child home.

The nurse and doctor will check your child regularly and do observations during his/her stay. These may include checking temperature, respiratory rate, oxygen saturation, heart rate and blood pressure. These will help them to decide when your child can be discharged home.

