

Information about

Infant (New-born) Plastibell Circumcision

Royal Hospital for Children
Govan Road
Glasgow
G51 4TF



Introduction

New-born male circumcision is usually performed for religious and cultural reasons. The service is offered to children who live within NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde catchment area, who are **aged 12 weeks or less**. This leaflet will explain what happens and how to organise this.

What is Plastibell Circumcision?

This procedure involves using the Plastibell device which is a plastic ring inserted between the foreskin and the head of the penis. A tight ligature (surgical string) is tied around the foreskin. This causes the foreskin to fall off naturally by blocking the blood supply.

As this procedure uses a **local anaesthetic**, your child can only have this procedure **up to the age of 12 weeks**. After 12 weeks, your child will have to wait for the procedure until they are over the age of one, as they will need a **general anaesthetic** (which means they will be asleep during the procedure).

- **Please note, only patients who live within the NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde area are eligible for this service.**

The procedure takes place in a treatment room at the Royal Hospital for Children in Glasgow by a team of experienced clinical staff.

When you arrive at the hospital

On arrival, a member of staff will assess your child and explain the procedure to you. If you choose to go ahead, we will ask for your written consent.

Please note that both parents need to attend the Plastibell appointment to give their consent for the procedure to be performed. If both parents are not able to be present to give consent, please contact us ahead of your child's appointment.

It might be that we ask you to help NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde to identify and **contact** all those with parental rights and responsibilities before the appointment. Should you have any questions about this, please contact us.

Assessment

When you attend the clinic, a member of staff will ask you some questions and examine your child. They are checking that there are no reasons that the procedure cannot go ahead, and making sure that you understand what it will involve.

Some babies are born with penile abnormalities. If your child has one of these conditions, we may have to cancel the circumcision and refer to Paediatric Urologist (a doctor who specialises in the kidneys, bladder and genitals).

If your child is suitable for a circumcision, we will explain the procedure to you and both parents will have to sign the consent form.

The Procedure

We use the Plastibell technique to perform the circumcision. The procedure takes approximately 10-15 minutes.

Anaesthetic

Once both parents have given their consent, we will give your child pain medication (paracetamol) and inject a local anaesthetic at the base of the penis. This should not be painful. This will take full effect after about 10 minutes, then the procedure can go ahead.

We will sometimes offer sucrose (sugar water) to your child during the procedure as it will calm and settle your child, this is often used to help with pain relief in small children.

The Plastibell

After applying a local anaesthetic, we place the plastibell between the head of the penis (glans) and the foreskin and use surgical string (ligature) to secure it. Over the next seven to ten days, the surgical string will work its way through the layers of foreskin to completely remove it which will then fall off along with the plastibell into your child's nappy.



Risks

We will discuss all the risks before you give your consent on the day of procedure. As with all surgical procedures, circumcision carries some risks. The most common are bleeding and infection.

Children who experience bleeding may need another procedure under general anaesthetic.

Aftercare Instructions

- A clinician will call you tonight, and then again in 7 days' time to check that your child is well.
- For the first 48 hours after the procedure, you should give your child paracetamol regularly. (Please follow the instructions).
- We will give you Chloramphenicol ointment (antibiotic cream) which you should apply to the plastibell twice a day.
- Every time you change your child's nappy, you should apply a layer of petroleum jelly (Vaseline) to the inside of their nappy.
- If you notice some redness on the scrotum (the pouch containing the testicles), you should apply some petroleum jelly (Vaseline).
- You should give your child a bath twice a day from tomorrow until the plastibell falls off.

- There may be some swelling that appears 2-5 days after the procedure, this is normal.
- The ring of the plastibell may start to partially separate at this point, this is normal, and it should be allowed to fall off on its own * **Do not pull the plastibell off** *
- After the plastibell falls off completely, the wound may look red, or have some yellowish discharge, this will settle in 2–3 days.

Side Effects

It is normal to see a few small drops of blood, or a slight stain in your baby's nappy after this procedure. If, however, there is a lot of blood, or the small drops do not stop after a few hours, then you should attend the Emergency Department at the Royal Hospital for Children.

If there is a lot of redness around the skin edges or if there is any discharge, or if you have any other concerns, please contact the Advanced Nurse Practitioners:

- Email: ✉ **ggc.plastibellservice@ggc.scot.nhs.uk**
The email inbox is monitored within working hours (8am–5pm; Monday–Friday)

- Telephone Number: ☎ **0141 452 4971**
or ☎ **0141 452 4972.**

The telephone line is available between working hours (8am–5pm; Monday–Friday)

Booking

If you wish to go ahead with an appointment, it is important that you contact us as soon as possible, after your son has been born.

- **Once your baby is over twelve weeks of age, we will not be able to do the Plastibell procedure.**

To book an appointment, please email:

✉ **appointmentsbookingcentre@ggc.scot.nhs.uk**

or telephone: ☎ **0800 592 087**

When emailing, please use the subject heading, **Plastibell** and include the following details:

- your child's name,
- their date of birth,
- their home address
- parent's contact telephone number.



