

## Consent- What does this mean?

Before any health professional examines or treats you they must have your consent or permission. Consent may be implied (e.g. offering a wrist for taking a pulse) or written (where you sign a form agreeing the treatment/operation). Young people are presumed to be able to give consent depending on their maturity and the nature of the decision.

Where a child is not competent to give consent, only a person (or body) with parental responsibility may consent on the child's behalf. More detailed information is available [www.dh.gov.uk](http://www.dh.gov.uk)

## Information we hold about you and your rights under the Data Protection Act

Please refer to the booklet 'Your Healthcare Information – Your Rights! Our Responsibilities!' for further guidance.

## How to comment on your treatment

We aim to provide the best possible service and staff will be happy to answer your questions. However, if you have any concerns you can also contact the Patient Experience Service on 0800 917 6039 or E-mail [portsmouthhospitals.patientexperience@porthosp.nhs.uk](mailto:portsmouthhospitals.patientexperience@porthosp.nhs.uk)

## Other sources of information:

NHS Direct online:  
[www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk](http://www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk)  
Helpline: 0845 4647

# Gallows Traction

## Information for parents



Shipwreck Ward  
Queen Alexandra Hospital, Cosham  
Tel: (023) 9228 6391

## Specialist Support

If you require this leaflet in another language, large print or another format, please contact the Health Information Centre Tel: (023) 9228 6757, who will advise you.

This leaflet has been given to you to help you answer some questions you may have about '**Gallows Traction**'.

### **What is Gallows Traction?**

This is a way of giving a gentle pull to your child's legs. Traction means 'steady pulling'. This method is used for children under 2 years of age.

### **Why is Gallows Traction used?**

It is used to stretch the tendons and the muscles within your child's hip before surgery to treat the dislocated hip. It is also a way of treating a fractured shaft of the femur (thigh bone) in children weighing less than 15kg.

### **How is it done?**

With your baby lying on their back, sticky plaster straps will be placed on your baby's legs and covered with bandages. Cords will be attached to the ends of the plaster straps and will be used to raise your baby's legs upright (see picture). The cords will then be tied onto a bar at the top of the cot. Your baby's bottom will be raised slightly off the cot mattress. This maintains the traction.

This treatment will help to heal the hip joint and reduce any fracture.

### **What are the likely problems of this treatment?**

Your baby will be monitored very carefully to make sure there is no skin irritation that could lead to blisters.

### **How do I look after my baby whilst on Gallows Traction?**

We will help you and show you how to care for your baby.

Your baby will take a short time to get used to the traction and will soon be able to twist round and play with their toys.

It is important to continue to play with your baby, cuddling and comforting them as you would do normally.

You will be able to feed your baby their usual food. You can also wash your baby but not bath him/her.

Your baby can be dressed in any clothes that pull over the head and have poppers that do up under their bottom. Socks can be put on your baby's feet.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Paediatric Unit at Queen Alexandra Hospital.

Tel: (023) 9228 3344 or your GP.