How to find us
We are located in the Old Building of Musgrove Park Hospital in the Children’s Unit at the very end of Acorn Ward.

For security reasons the door at the entrance to the Children’s Unit is locked. To gain entry, please ring the intercom and make yourself known to staff.

Contact details
Paediatric High Dependency Unit
Musgrove Park Hospital
Taunton TA1 5DA
Direct telephone line: 01823 343799
What is the Paediatric High Dependency Unit (HDU)?
The Paediatric High Dependency Unit (HDU) is a two-bedded area allowing closer observation and monitoring. We care for children of all ages and with many different conditions. Some children are admitted to Acorn or Oak Ward before moving to the HDU during a later stage of their hospital stay. Other children or young people are admitted via the Accident and Emergency Department or following a surgical procedure.

Regardless of the reason for your child requiring HDU care, we realise that it is a very stressful time for parents and you will have many questions. You may like to write these down ready to ask the team overseeing your child’s treatment. Please don’t hesitate to ask your nurse for anything you need.

Staffing
In the HDU, we care for a maximum of two children at one time. Your nurse will keep you up-to-date with the treatment plan and any changes to it.

A consultant paediatrician and a team of junior doctors attend HDU for a ward round in the morning, usually from 9.30am onwards (the timing can vary day-to-day). Your child may also be under the care of another team of specialist doctors. In addition we contact Bristol Children’s Hospital when more specialist advice is required.

Other staff members such as physiotherapists, play specialists, occupational therapists, pharmacist, diabetes nurse and a dietician also attend the HDU.

Visiting
The immediate family and close friends only may visit at any time. There should be no more than two visitors at a time. Please allow breaks between visitors so your child is able to rest.

Staying overnight
Parents are welcome to stay with their child at all times. On the unit there are a limited number of bedrooms for parents. Please speak to a member of staff if you require one. There are showering facilities and a kitchen which all parents are welcome to use. The kitchen has tea/coffee, a fridge, toaster and microwave so that food may be stored and prepared.

Confidentiality
While we understand it can be a worrying time for wider family and friends, we are unable to give detailed information over the telephone.

Play and schooling
Our play specialists are available Monday to Friday. They can provide activities to help distract children’s minds from unpleasant experiences (distraction therapy). They also offer play therapy for phobias as well as other activities, games and DVDs.

The school teacher is present Monday to Friday from 9am -12pm (midday) during term time, providing a range of educational resources which can be tailored to each child’s educational and health needs.

Language interpretation and translation
We can promptly arrange telephone interpretation and can organise a face-to-face interpretation appointment. Translation, British sign language (BSL), and Braille are also available. Please ask your nurse.

Spiritual care
There is an on-call chaplain who can see families at any time. The chapel is on Level 1 of the Duchess Building. A priest from the Roman Catholic Chaplaincy team and leaders of other faiths can also be contacted via the chaplaincy office.

Shop, coffee shops and restaurant
Whitlock’s restaurant is accessed via the Jubilee concourse and the League of Friends’ shop is situated in the Old Building. Please see the board in the parents’ kitchen for the opening hours of both. A Marks & Spencer Simply Food and coffee shop are located in the Jubilee concourse. A Costa Coffee shop is located in the Duchess building.

There is a cash machine on Level 1 of the Queens Building and in the Jubilee concourse.