

Transfer to your local hospital

What is a transfer?

Your child has been receiving care at the Queensland Children's Hospital because they are the specialist hospital for children from across Queensland and Northern New South Wales.

Once the specialist treatment has been given, your child's team at the Queensland Children's Hospital may arrange for him/her to be moved to your local hospital for care can be completed closer to home. This is known as a back transfer.

What is the process?

Step one

Your child's doctor at Queensland Children's Hospital will contact the relevant doctor at your local hospital. They will discuss the treatment that has been given and make sure that the local hospital will be able to provide your child with the care they need.

Step two

Your child's doctor at the Queensland Children's Hospital will contact a service called the Children's Advice and Transportation Coordination Hub (known as CATCH). CATCH is a service led by experienced paediatric nurses at the Queensland Children's Hospital. A nurse from CATCH will talk with your local hospital to make sure a bed is available for your child.

Step three

Once the CATCH nurse confirms a bed is available and booked, they will work out the safest mode of transport for your child and book it for you. Children will usually travel via the Queensland Ambulance Service. However, if the drive is more than two hours your child may travel by plane. This may be through Retrieval Services Queensland or by a commercial flight provider. Your CATCH nurse will work out what is best for your child.

What are the benefits?

- your child will be closer to home
- you and your child will have easier access to family and community support

Important to know

- We will only transfer a child to a local hospital if it is safe to do so.
- We will only transfer a child if we are sure there is a bed available. Otherwise, care will continue at the Queensland Children's Hospital until a bed becomes available at the local hospital.
- Queensland Children's Hospital health professionals will provide a comprehensive handover about your child's condition to the doctors, nurses and other healthcare providers at your local hospital.
- We can arrange back transfer to a private hospital if parents choose to use their private health insurance.

Further information

Speak to the one of the team caring for your child at Queensland Children's Hospital if you have any questions.

Developed by CATCH, Queensland Children's Hospital. Updated: May 2019. All information contained in this sheet has been supplied by qualified professionals as a guideline for care only. Seek medical advice, as appropriate, for concerns regarding your child's health.

